

# Sex differences in death after stroke

December 23 2020

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Women were 39% more likely to die by 1 year after a first stroke. The sex difference was due to advanced age and more severe strokes in women, according to a new study in the *Journal of Women's Health*.

Among women and men with a first-ever stroke, women were approximately 7 years older. In addition, 9.3% fewer women could walk

independently on admission to the hospital, suggestive of a more [severe stroke](#).

"Among those deceased by any cause, men had more deaths due to cancer (12% vs women 6%) and [ischemic heart disease](#) (8% vs women 6%) while women had more deaths attributed to stroke (50% vs men 41%) or other [cardiovascular disease](#) (16% vs men 13%), state Dominique Cadilhac, Ph.D., School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, and coauthors.

"Cadilhac and colleagues showed that women had a 65% greater risk of death associated with stroke. Not only were [women](#) more likely to be older at first stroke and to have greater stroke severity, but they were also less likely to be treated with aspirin for secondary stroke prevention," says *Journal of Women's Health* Editor-in-Chief Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA.

**More information:** Hoang T. Phan et al, Sex Differences in Causes of Death After Stroke: Evidence from a National, Prospective Registry, *Journal of Women's Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8391](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2020.8391)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Citation: Sex differences in death after stroke (2020, December 23) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-12-sex-differences-death.html>

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