

BEHAVIOUR ADOPTED AT THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF STROKE

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Introduction: Stroke is the second cause of death in Colombia. The level of knowledge of stroke within the population can determine its ability to recognize and make the decision to go to an emergency room.

Objective: Study the attitude and/or behaviour adopted by the patient and/or the family before a stroke in patients, diagnosed as ischemic stroke in 4 different hospital centers of Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Methods: Information on 348 patients was included; they were followed in a cohort from Nov' 2015 to Dec' 2017. Information was collected from patients and/or relatives.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 69.2 years. 75% of them came from urban areas. During the acute presentation of the event (stroke), 69% of patients or families did not recognize or think of stroke as a possibility. 8.9% did not initially consider that it was an important illness and 6.3% thought that it would recover spontaneously. In the sample analyzed, only 8% underwent vascular recanalization therapies.

Conclusion: Knowledge about stroke is still very poor in the general population and this affects the out of window arrival of these patients to hospital centers, and the low percentage of patients gain benefit from the recanalization therapy.

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