QUALITY OF CARE OF ACUTE STROKE PATIENTS IN LITHUANIA: NATIONAL DATA

Aleksandras Vilionskis^{1,2}, Inga Slautaite^{1,2}, Rytis Masiliunas^{1,3}, Jevgenija Zeldakova^{1,3}, Vaidas Matijosaitis⁴, Antanas Vaitkus⁴, Povilas Beliaziunas⁴, Laura Sinkunaite⁴, Saulius Taroza⁵, Linas Masiliunas⁶, Andreea Grecu⁷, Dalius Jatuzis^{1,3}

¹Vilnius University, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Vilnius, Lithuania, ²Republican Vilnius University hospital, Department of Neurology, Vilnius, Lithuania, ³Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Department of Neurology, Vilnius, Lithuania, ⁴Lithuanian University of Health Science, Medical Academy, Clinic of Neurology, Kaunas, Lithuania, ⁵Klaipeda Seamen's Hospital, Department of Neurology, Klaipeda, Lithuania, ⁶Republican Panevezys Hospital, Department of Neurology, Panevezys, Lithuania, ⁷International Clinical Research Center, St. Anne's University Hospital, Department of Clinical Neurology, Brno, Czech Republic

Background. Quality of care (QOC) of acute stroke patients (ASP) is essential to improve long-term outcomes, decrease mortality and long-term disability. Recent studies have shown that QOC varies across countries and across hospitals in country. The aim of this study was to estimate the QOC of ASP in Lithuania, identify the gaps and suggest ways to improve it.

Patients, methods. In our cross-sectional study all ASP (ischemic stroke, intracerebral hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhage) treated in 5 largest stroke centers in Lithuania during October 2017 were included. The standardized RES-Q questionnaire was used. The questions covered imaging, treatment and secondary prevention topics.

RESULTS

330 acute stroke patients were included in this study. 305 patients (92.4%) had ischemic stroke, 21 patients (6.4%) had intracerebral hemorrhage, and 4 patients (1.2%) had subarachnoid hemorrhage.

General information

Period of study: March, 2017
Mean age: 69—77 (across country—73)
Mean NIHSS score on admission: 6—12 (across country—9)
Number of included patients per centre: RVUH - 92, VUH SK - 59, LUHSH KK - 47, KSH - 51, RPH - 81
Number of patients received reperfusion therapy:

	RVUH	VUH SK	LUHSH KK	KSH	RPH
IVT	10	10	17	23	6
BT	1	2	7	2	0
MTE	1	4	0	0	2

Figure 1. NIHHS score evaluation on admission

Figure 2. Brain CT on admission

Figure 3. Dysphagia screening on admission

Figure 4. Implementation of reperfusion therapy

Figure 5. Time delay before procedure

Figure 6. Screening for atrial fibrillation

Figure 7. Secondary prevention for non-cardioembolic stroke

Figure 8. Secondary prevention for cardioembolic stroke

Conclusion. We found that the main gaps in QOC of ASP in Lithuania were insufficient screening for dysphagia and cardiac monitoring for AF. Door-to-needle time should be improved as well. Introduction of a dysphagia protocol and education of hospital staff is needed to improve care for ASP.

Abbreviations: RVUH—Republican Vilnius University hospital, VUH SK—Vilnius University hospital Santaros Klinikos, LUHSH KK—Lithuanian University of Health Sciences hospital Kauno klinikos, KSH—Klaipeda Seamen's hospital, RPH—Republican Panevezys hospital
IVT—intravenous thrombolysis, BT—bridging therapy, MTE—mechanical thrombectomy, DNT—door to needle time, DPT—door to groin artery puncture time