THE HARVARD COOPERATIVE STROKE REGISTRY: A PROSPECTIVE REGISTRY

J. P. Mohr, Louis R. Caplan, John W. Melski, Robert J. Goldstein, Gary W. Duncan, J. P. Kistler, Michael S. Pessin, and Howard L. Bleich

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Data from 694 patients hospitalized with stroke were entered in a prospective, computer-based registry. Three hundred and sixty-four patients (53 percent) were diagnosed as having thrombosis, 215 (31 percent) as having cerebral embolism, 70 (10 percent) as having intracerebral hematoma, and 45 (6 percent) as having subarachnoid hemorrhage from aneurysm or arteriovenous malformations. The 364 patients diagnosed as having thrombosis were divided into 233 (34 percent of all 694 patients) whose thrombosis was thought to involve a large artery and 131 (19 percent) with lacunar infarction. Many of the findings in this study were comparable to those in previous registries based on postmortem data. New observations include the high incidence of lacunes and cerebral emboli, the absence of an identifiable cardiac origin in 37 percent of all emboli, a nonsudden onset in 21 percent of emboli, and the occurrence of vomiting at onset in 51 percent and the absence of headache at onset in 67 percent of hematomas.

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Comment from Larry B. Goldstein, MD, FAAN: *The Harvard Cooperative Stroke Registry was a prototype for the systematic, prospective collection of stroke-related clinical data. The data and experience gained aided the design of subsequent studies such as the NIH-sponsored multicenter Stroke Databank project.*

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