

Research Assessment 11

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Subject: Strokes

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"The Internet Stroke Center." *The Internet Stroke Center. An Independent Web Resource for Information about Stroke Care and Research.*,
www.strokecenter.org/patients/about-stroke/what-is-a-stroke/.

Assessment:

For this semester, my final product is going to be centered around strokes. I will produce a write up about a case with strokes and breaking down how and why the patient suffered through a stroke. However, in order for me to do that, I need to familiarize myself with some of the basics about strokes before diving right into the case.

Strokes are one of the most common neurological issues. A stroke is a sudden blockage in the blood supply of the brain, but the interesting part is that sometimes strokes go unnoticed and do not cause any pain. Thus, it is extremely important for people to be aware and familiar with the signs of a stroke. I found this quite fascinating that a person can be going through a stroke and not know it at all. It makes me wonder how many strokes and deaths could have been prevented if only people had been more aware of the signs.

Strokes are categorized into three main categories: ischemic stroke, hemorrhagic stroke, and transient ischemic stroke. An ischemic stroke is the most common type of stroke which occurs when arteries carrying blood to the brain are blocked. An ischemic stroke can also be broken down into either thrombotic, where a clot forms in the arteries of the brain preventing blood supply, or embolic, where a clot forms in the arteries of somewhere other than the brain preventing blood supply. Close to 80 percent of strokes can be attributed to ischemic strokes, and the chances of a person getting an ischemic stroke increase as age progresses due to atherosclerosis, or increased buildup of plaque in the arteries.

A hemorrhagic stroke, or intracerebral hemorrhagic stroke, occurs

when a blood vessel bursts inside the brain, leaking blood into the brain. The biggest cause for bursting of vessels in the brain is hypertension, or high blood pressure. This stroke can go easily unnoticed because the building pressure can cause no symptoms. Despite a person being asymptomatic, a hemorrhagic stroke only accounts for 12 percent of strokes, compared to the 88 percent of ischemic strokes.

A transient ischemic stroke is exactly what it sounds like; it is an ischemic stroke that passes away when the clot in the brain passes. A transient ischemic stroke is usually not fatal, but it is an indicator that a person can go through a fatal ischemic stroke soon after.

Now, adults are the ones that most commonly go through strokes, but there are cases and chances where children can go through a stroke. These cases are usually caused by a disease, and the most common disease to cause a pediatric stroke is sickle cell disease. When a person has sickle cell disease, their cells are able to easily block arteries and vessels due to their shape. Strokes are quite hard to predict in children because symptoms can be mistaken for child developmental problems.

This information is the surface of strokes, and I hope to dive deeper into strokes as I continue to work on my project. Looking over the types of strokes has helped me grasp the overview of what a stroke is, and it intrigues me how such a common problem is so easily neglected.