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Risk of stroke in smokers

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Stroke is a devastating illness that occurs as a result of necrosis of brain cells due to vascular blockade or hemorrhage. It is one of the leading causes of death; approximately 15 million people worldwide are diagnosed with stroke every year. About 10% of deaths caused by stroke are due to smoking. Smoking increases the risk of stroke by four fold in smokers than in non smokers. Smoking causes increase in the risk of developing atherosclerosis, arterial wall damage, aneurysm and thrombosis. This may result, blockade of arteries that supply blood to brain cells leads to ischemic stroke and aneurysm may lead to hemorrhagic stroke. Besides intra cerebral hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhage were also occur due to smoking. The risk due to smoking reduces those who quit smoking before their stroke attack. Comparing current smokers and former smokers, risk of recurrence of stroke is more in those who still smoke after their first stroke attack. It is found that younger stroke patients have significant risk due to smoking.

Biography

B Jyothi, PharmD, is doing internship in GSL hospital, from Andhra University. She has done a project on "Assessment of quality of life in cancer therapy patients" and submitted it to Andhra University and also attended IACP conference, Bangalore.

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