



Comparison between recurrence rates of stroke in patients with intracranial arterial stenosis without extracranial or with extracranial stenosis

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Background: stroke is the third cause of death and prevention from its recurrence is very important. Etiology of strokes is stenosis in intracranial or extracranial arteries. The purpose of this study is comparison of patients in a three years follow-up for recurrence rate of strokes in two groups with and without significant extracranial stenosis.

Methods: In this study patients with strokes with intracranial arteries stenosis selected in two groups with 30% to 65% carotid stenosis and another group without any extracranial stenosis. All the patients followed for three years. Clinical examination and neuroimaging were performed at admission time and in follow up if it was necessary and all patients followed as outpatients in clinics. Patients with history of warfarin use were not permitted.

Results: Totally, 132 patients assigned in two groups. Sixty-nine patients with intracranial stenosis without extracranial stenosis and sixty-four patients with 30%-65% stenosis selected in two groups. Eleven patients in group without stenosis and 19 patients in patients with 30% to 65% stenosis showed stroke within 3 years periods ($p<0.002$).

Conclusion: Stroke recurrence is more prevalent in patients with intracranial stenosis with extracranial stenosis in comparison with patients without stenosis in three years follow-up. These patients are in more risk for stroke recurrence and more protection is recommended for them.