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# THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN POST-STROKE DEPRESSION AND MORTALITY: A META-ANALYSIS

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**Introduction:** Stroke represents the third most frequent cause of mortality in developed countries, following only coronary heart diseases and cancer. Post-Stroke Depression (PSD) is extremely common among stroke survivors, and it may have great burden on the likelihood of functional recovery and long-term outcomes. We hypothesized that PSD is related to a higher rate of mortality among people suffering from a stroke.
**Aim:** To estimate the risk of mortality among subjects suffering from PSD as compared with stroke survivors who did not suffer from PSD.
**Methods:** We performed a systematic review of papers indexed in Pubmed. Both fixed and random-effects methods for estimating association and time-to-event pooled effects were used. The presence and the level of heterogeneity were assessed using Q test and $I^2$ statistic.
**Results:** Seven papers had data suitable for meta-analysis. The pooled association effect for mortality at follow-up in people with PSD were statistically significant ($p< 0.05$). The time-to-event estimation showed a statistically significant correlation exclusively under the fixed effect analysis.
**Conclusions:** These findings pointed out the potential burden of PSD on post stroke mortality. Further investigation is required to clarify the nature of PSD/mortality association.

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