

# The Burden of Stroke in Greece

Based on the findings of *The Burden of Stroke in Europe* report conducted by King's College London for the Stroke Alliance for Europe



Population: 11,606,813

Healthcare cost of stroke in Greece = €356.2 million (€33 per capita)

## Treatment landscape:

Public campaigns for stroke prevention and a regional programme for early detection of atrial fibrillation (AF)

Very low number of stroke units and high regional discrepancy, including no central policy on emergency services or ambulance staff training

No national guidelines for acute stroke treatment; most neurology departments use local protocols based on AHA/ASA guidelines

The Neurological Society and Hellenic Society of Cerebrovascular Diseases organises annual regional stroke prevention campaigns

Very small number of comprehensive stroke centres despite introduction of "stroke unit beds" within some coronary/ cardiovascular units

Voluntary organisations support local patients and families with life after stroke

## Stroke in Greece:

**Incidence:**  
16,095 strokes per year  
69.1 strokes per 100,000 inhabitants annually

**Prevalence:**  
69,028 strokes  
352.6 strokes per 100,000 inhabitants

**Mortality:**  
19,350 deaths due to stroke per year  
69.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants annually

## Estimated increase 2015–2035:

▲ Incidence: **19%**

▲ Prevalence: **13%**

▲ Deaths: **24%**

▲ DALYs Lost: **18%**

## Risk factor prevalence:

High blood pressure  
**25%**

High cholesterol  
**48.2%**

Smoking  
**43.4%**

Raised glucose  
**9.1%**

Atrial fibrillation (AF)  
**3.9%**

Only moderate public knowledge exists of stroke risk factors, symptoms and the appropriate response.

## Anticoagulant treatment rates:

In Greece and Italy combined, the use of oral anticoagulants in AF-patients is  
**76.2%**

**>55%**  
of intermediate risk AF patients not on oral anticoagulants

**67%**  
of high risk AF patients not on oral anticoagulants

