

# The Burden of Stroke in Italy



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: 60,665,625

Healthcare cost of stroke in Italy = €3,195.9 million (€53 per capita)

## Treatment landscape:

The Italian Stroke Organisation have published national clinical guidelines, titled SPREAD

130 stroke units currently exist in Italy, including dedicated transient ischaemic attack (TIA) clinics with same day evaluation of patients by a stroke specialist

Stroke Programme in Siena Province (Tuscany) includes direct transfer via ambulance/helicopter with medical assistance on board, stroke code notification and a mean doctor-to-needle time of 48 minutes

On average, intensive acute phase rehabilitation is provided for 4 weeks post-stroke, with hospitals providing multi-professional rehabilitation

## Stroke in Italy:

Incidence:  
**73,116**  
strokes per year

**53.1**  
strokes per  
**100,000**  
inhabitants  
annually

Prevalence:  
**351,820**  
strokes

**307.2**  
strokes per  
**100,000**  
inhabitants

Mortality:  
**75,252**  
deaths due  
to stroke per year

**44.7**  
deaths per  
**100,000**  
inhabitants  
annually

## Estimated increase 2015–2035:



Incidence:  
**32%**



Prevalence:  
**26%**



Deaths:  
**38%**



DALYs Lost:  
**32%**

## Risk factor prevalence:



High blood pressure  
**27.6%**



High cholesterol  
**62.2%**



Smoking  
**24.2%**



Raised glucose  
**8.5%**



Atrial fibrillation (AF)  
**1.3%**

The stroke patients association ALICE runs campaigns on stroke prevention, healthy lifestyles, and blood pressure control.

## Anticoagulant treatment rates:

According to GP data across Italy

**84%**

of AF-patients are treated with oral anti-coagulants at the time of diagnosis

In 2004-6, the use of oral anticoagulants was

**74.2%**

in AF-patients post stroke

Only

**29.6%**

of patients still on treatment two years post diagnosis

