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
Prevalence: 351,820 strokes per 100,000 inhabitants
Mortality: 75,252 deaths due to stroke per year

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 anticoagulants 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.

All information contained in this infographic is taken from The Burden of Stroke in Europe report conducted by King’s College London for the Stroke Alliance for Europe. Information from The Burden of Stroke in Europe report was adapted to infographic format with support from Bayer AG.