The Burden of Stroke in Spain

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: 46,777,373
Healthcare cost of stroke in Spain = €1,244.8 million (€27 per capita)

Treatment landscape:

- A Stroke Code System is implemented nationwide, which involves ambulance and emergency staff screening for stroke and hospital pre-notification
- The “Strategy for Stroke of the National Health System” established objectives for prevention, acute care, and rehabilitation. Additionally, national clinical guidelines have been developed and the Stroke Healthcare Plan aims to make specialised care available to all patients
- 59 stroke units and 27 comprehensive stroke centres. Some regions have a well-developed network of telestroke
- Dedicated transient ischaemic attack (TIA) clinics exist with immediate or same day evaluation of patients by a stroke specialist
- RAPID, a public campaign, similar to FAST, has been launched to improve stroke awareness and recognition

Stroke in Spain:

- Incidence: 40,214 strokes per year
- Prevalence: 273,971 strokes
- Mortality: 36,302 deaths due to stroke per year

Estimated increase 2015–2035:

- Incidence: 35%
- Prevalence: 31%
- Deaths: 39%
- DALYs Lost: 35%

Risk factor prevalence:

- High blood pressure: 24.8%
- High cholesterol: 56.1%
- Smoking: 30.3%
- Raised glucose: 9.4%
- Atrial fibrillation (AF): 4.4%* (4.4% in adults >40yrs; 1.5% overall)

There is a National Stroke Day, held annually since 1999, with several mass media activities to raise stroke awareness.

Anticoagulant treatment rates:

- In Spain, the use of oral anticoagulants in AF-patients is 87.9%
- Gender and age were related to lower rates of anticoagulant use
- Cognitive impairment was the main reason for non-treatment