

## Abstract

**Title** : Post Stroke Depression in Chiangmai Neurological Hospital

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### **Background and purpose :**

Depression is the most common psychological complication following stroke. Post stroke depression effects patient's ability to participate in post-stroke rehabilitation programs and associated with increased risk of suicide and mortality rate.

### **Methods :**

Three years retrospective study from 1,017 medical records of acute stroke patients who admitted in stroke unit of Chiangmai Neurological Hospital during January 2009 - January 2012 was done. Two hundred and thirty patients with inclusion criteria were enrolled to identify the prevalence of post stroke depression as well as to access the relationship between demographic factors, stroke characteristics and post stroke depression. Data was collected over demographic and stroke related factors and underwent psychiatric and cognitive evaluations by psychotherapist. Description of categorical variables like sex, age, marital status, employment status, stroke lesion, depression were presented as numbers, frequencies, means, percentages and standard deviations. Analysis to determine the relationship between post stroke depression and demographic variables and stroke characteristics were performed by exact probability test. P-value < 0.05 was considered as significantly associated.

### **Results :**

The prevalence of post stroke depression in Chiangmai Neurological Hospital was 20.4 % (n=47), mostly were mild depressive level and moderate dependency in activities of daily living. Mean duration of post stroke study was 4.91 days after stroke onset. Post stroke depression was significantly associated with hypertension and ischemic lesion location (P-value< 0.05) but was not associated with age, gender, marital status, level of education and monthly income.

### **Conclusions :**

Post stroke depression occurs in one fifth of the stroke patients. It is associated with hypertension and lesion location in the brain.