

Supplementary Table 1. Exclusion criteria for cases

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| 1 | Age <18 years |
| 2 | Patients unable to communicate because of severe stroke, aphasia, or dementia who did not have a valid proxy respondent* |
| 3 | Stroke symptoms lasting >120 hours from symptom onset or last seen normal |
| 4 | Not first stroke presentation/diagnosis |
| 5 | Non-vascular causes of acute presentation (e.g., tumor, abscess, multiple sclerosis, hypoglycemia, seizure etc.) |
| 6 | Subdural hemorrhage |
| 7 | Current hospitalization for acute coronary syndromes or stroke secondary to endovascular procedure |
| 8 | Unable to get consent |

*A valid proxy respondent was considered a spouse or first degree relative who was living in the same home or aware of the participant's previous medical history and current therapies.

Supplementary Table 2. Guidance to sites for selection of controls

Selection of controls for INTERSTROKE study

Controls

1. Community-based control
2. Relative of a patient from a non-cardiac ward
3. Unrelated (not first degree relative) visitor of any patient
4. Patients attending the hospital or outpatient clinic:

Preferred controls from hospital settings: Patients attending the hospital or outpatients clinic for the following reasons

- 4.1 Refraction and cataracts (excluding those presenting with acute visual loss)
- 4.2 Physical check-up
- 4.3 Routine pap smear
- 4.4 Routine breast exam
- 4.5 Elective minor surgery for conditions that are not obviously related to stroke or its risk factors
- 4.6 Elective orthopedic surgery

Acceptable controls from hospital settings: Patients attending the hospital or outpatient's clinic for the following reasons

- 4.7 Outpatient fractures
- 4.8 Arthritic complaints
- 4.9 Plastic surgery
- 4.10 Hemorrhoids, hernias, hydroceles
- 4.11 Routine colon cancer screening
- 4.12 Endoscopy
- 4.13 Minor dermatological disorders