Letter by El Husseini et al Regarding Article, “What Causes Disability After Transient Ischemic Attack and Minor Stroke?”

To the Editor:

Reporting on the results of the CATCH study, Coutts et al. were surprised that 15% of subjects with transient ischemic attack (TIA) or minor stroke were disabled (modified Rankin Score >2) at 90 days and indicate that their study “is novel in that it emphasizes the need to examine disability even in minor stroke.” Although differing in purpose and design, their data are consistent with our study, in which we found 37% of patients with TIA had a modified Rankin Score >2, 3 months after the event. The higher proportion of TIA patients disabled in our study is likely attributable to differences in study populations and methodology because we did not exclude patients with previous stroke/TIA.

We also found that the frequency of depression was high and unexpectedly similar after 3 months in patients who had a stroke (17.9%) versus TIA (14.3%). We could not determine the extent to which depression might have contributed to functional disability, resulted from it, or was an independent phenomenon. Regardless, we agree with Coutts et al’ conclusion, but would add that patients should be assessed for both disability and depression after experiencing a TIA.

Disclosures

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