

# Letter to the Editor

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## Letter by El-Battrawy et al Regarding Article, “Takotsubo-Like Myocardial Dysfunction in Ischemic Stroke: A Hospital-Based Registry and Systematic Literature Review”

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the article by Jung et al<sup>1</sup> published in *Stroke*, which discusses clinical and radiological characteristics of ischemic stroke patients with Takotsubo-like myocardial dysfunction.

To date, the pathogenesis of Takotsubo syndrome (TTS), in some cases being associated with right ventricular involvement, is not fully understood. Recently published studies have elevated the impact of TTS and compared its associated complications such as arrhythmias, cardiogenic shock, and thromboembolic events, to coronary artery syndrome highlighting the similar mortality rates in each scenario.<sup>2,3</sup>

The incidence and clinical significance of thromboembolic events in TTS has not yet been sufficiently established. Data documenting these events are poor.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, a defining explanation to its underlying pathogenesis remains unresolved. Cerebral embolism might result from left ventricular thrombosis in TTS. However, there have also been reports indicating stroke in patients in the absence of ventricular thrombus. A possible explanation is the thought that TTS might be the consequence of stroke-related stress.<sup>3,5</sup>

We described a collective of 114 consecutive patients diagnosed with TTS between January 2003 and September 2015 at our institution. Our data showed that the incidence of thromboembolic events and stroke at index hospitalization and overall follow-up of 5 years were significantly higher in the TTS group associated with right ventricular involvement compared with the classical TTS group.<sup>4</sup> Patients were treated with Warfarin, aspirin, and thrombectomy. We are wondering if the authors could provide any information about the right ventricular involvement in their study and whether biventricular thrombosis was detected in any of these cases? In addition, it would be of great interest to

get some information about the treatment strategy after discharge and duration?

We recommend the urgent need of randomized trials to clearly define treatment approaches and management strategies in Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, thus enabling the practice of evidence-based medicine within guidelines.

## Disclosures

None.

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