

Global Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cerebral Venous Thrombosis and Mortality

(SVIN COVID-19 Global COVID Stroke Registry) Nguyen, Thanh N.; Qureshi, Muhammad M.; Klein, Piers; Yamagami, Hiroshi; Abdalkader, Mohamad; Mikulik, Robert; Sathya, Anvitha; Mansour, Ossama Yassin; Czlonkowska, Anna; Lo, Hannah; ...

Source / Izvornik: **Journal of Stroke, 2022, 24, 256 - 265**

Journal article, Published version

Rad u časopisu, Objavljena verzija rada (izdavačev PDF)

<https://doi.org/10.5853/jos.2022.00752>

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:220:613953>

Rights / Prava: [In copyright](#) / [Zaštićeno autorskim pravom.](#)

Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2024-11-22**



Repository / Repozitorij:

[Repository of the Sestre milosrdnice University
Hospital Center - KBCSM Repository](#)

Global Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cerebral Venous Thrombosis and Mortality

Thanh N. Nguyen,^{a,b} Muhammad M. Qureshi,^{b,c} Piers Klein,^{a,b} Hiroshi Yamagami,^d Mohamad Abdalkader,^b Robert Mikulik,^e Anvitha Sathya,^{a,b} Ossama Yassin Mansour,^f Anna Czlonkowska,^g Hannah Lo,^{a,b} Thalia S. Field,^h Andreas Charidimou,^a Soma Banerjee,ⁱ Shadi Yaghi,^j James E. Siegler,^k Petra Sedova,^e Joseph Kwan,ⁱ Diana Aguiar de Sousa,^l Jelle Demeestere,^m Violiza Inoa,ⁿ Setareh Salehi Omran,^o Liqun Zhang,^p Patrik Michel,^q Davide Strambo,^q João Pedro Marto,^r Raul G. Nogueira,^s SVIN COVID-19 Global COVID Stroke Registry

^aDepartment of Neurology, Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA

^bDepartment of Radiology, Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA

^cDepartment of Radiation Oncology, Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA

^dDepartment of Stroke Neurology, National Hospital Organization, Osaka National Hospital, Osaka, Japan

^eDepartment of Neurology, International Clinical Research Center, St. Anne's University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

^fDepartment of Neurology, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt

^g2nd Department of Neurology, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland

^hDivision of Neurology, Dept. Medicine, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

ⁱDepartment of Stroke Medicine, Charing Cross Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK

^jDepartment of Neurology, Rhode Island Hospital, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

^kDepartment of Neurology, Cooper University, Camden, NJ, USA

^lDepartment of Neurology, Hospital de Santa Maria, North Lisbon University Hospital Center (CHULN), Lisbon, Portugal

^mNeurology Department, Leuven University Hospital, Leuven, Belgium

ⁿDepartment of Neurology, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, USA

^oDepartment of Neurology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, USA

^pDepartment of Neurology St George's University Hospital, London, UK

^qDepartment of Neurosciences, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

^rDepartment of Neurology, Egas Moniz Hospital, West Lisbon Hospital Center (CHLO), Lisbon, Portugal

^sDepartment of Neurology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Background and Purpose Recent studies suggested an increased incidence of cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We evaluated the volume of CVT hospitalization and in-hospital mortality during the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the preceding year.

Methods We conducted a cross-sectional retrospective study of 171 stroke centers from 49 countries. We recorded COVID-19 admission volumes, CVT hospitalization, and CVT in-hospital mortality from January 1, 2019, to May 31, 2021. CVT diagnoses were identified by International Classification of Disease-10 (ICD-10) codes or stroke databases. We additionally sought to compare the same metrics in the first 5 months of 2021 compared to the corresponding months in 2019 and 2020 (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04934020).

Results There were 2,313 CVT admissions across the 1-year pre-pandemic (2019) and pandemic year (2020); no differences in CVT volume or CVT mortality were observed. During the first 5 months of 2021, there was an increase in CVT volumes compared to 2019 (27.5%; 95% confidence

Correspondence: Raul G. Nogueira
Cerebrovascular Center, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 200 Lothrop Street, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Tel: +1-412-692-4920
Fax: +1-412-647-8445
E-mail: raul.g.nogueira@icloud.com
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4532-153X>

Co-correspondence: Thanh N. Nguyen
Department of Neurology, 1 Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA
Tel: +1-617-638-9022
Fax: +1-617-638-5354
E-mail: thanh.nguyen@bmc.org
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2810-1685>

interval [CI], 24.2 to 32.0; $P < 0.0001$) and 2020 (41.4%; 95% CI, 37.0 to 46.0; $P < 0.0001$). A COVID-19 diagnosis was present in 7.6% (132/1,738) of CVT hospitalizations. CVT was present in 0.04% (103/292,080) of COVID-19 hospitalizations. During the first pandemic year, CVT mortality was higher in patients who were COVID positive compared to COVID negative patients (8/53 [15.0%] vs. 41/910 [4.5%], $P = 0.004$). There was an increase in CVT mortality during the first 5 months of pandemic years 2020 and 2021 compared to the first 5 months of the pre-pandemic year 2019 (2019 vs. 2020: 2.26% vs. 4.74%, $P = 0.05$; 2019 vs. 2021: 2.26% vs. 4.99%, $P = 0.03$). In the first 5 months of 2021, there were 26 cases of vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), resulting in six deaths.

Conclusions During the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic, CVT hospitalization volume and CVT in-hospital mortality did not change compared to the prior year. COVID-19 diagnosis was associated with higher CVT in-hospital mortality. During the first 5 months of 2021, there was an increase in CVT hospitalization volume and increase in CVT-related mortality, partially attributable to VITT.

Keywords COVID-19; Cerebral venous thrombosis; Vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia; Mortality; SARS-CoV-2; Stroke

Introduction

Since the first case in December 2019, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been responsible for more than 340 million infections and over 5.5 million deaths.¹ Though most of the morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19 is related to pulmonary complications, the disease has had wide-ranging systemic effects, including a range of neurological manifestations^{2,3} and disruption of coagulation homeostasis.⁴⁻⁷ This disruption in normal coagulation may trigger abnormal clotting events such as venous thromboembolism and stroke.⁸⁻¹⁰

Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) is a rare cause of stroke caused by the formation of clots in the brain's venous system. The incidence of CVT has been reported to increase over the last decade, either from changing risk factors or improved detection.¹¹⁻¹³ Compared to other forms of stroke, the incidence of CVT is more common in younger patients and women. CVT generally has a favorable prognosis with a good 90-day neurological outcome seen in greater than 80% of patients.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Several regional and multicenter reports described an increase in the incidence of CVT and severity of CVT during the COVID-19 pandemic.^{6,17} In February of 2021, reports emerged of CVT following COVID-19 vaccination with adenovirus-based vaccines. In these patients, a syndrome characterized by thrombosis, thrombocytopenia,¹⁸ and antibodies to platelet factor 4 were observed and the syndrome was termed vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT).¹⁹⁻²¹ Whereas the relative changes in stroke²²⁻²⁶ and subarachnoid hemorrhage volumes²⁷ have been described during the first

wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the low incidence of CVT has limited studies during the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, there is insufficient data to determine whether CVT incidence or mortality changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary objectives of this study were to evaluate changes in the volume of CVT hospitalizations and CVT in-hospital mortality during the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic (January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021) compared to the preceding year (January 1, 2019, to February 29, 2020), adjusting for the beginning of the pandemic month in each country. The secondary objective of this study was to examine the association between the volume of COVID-19 admissions and the volume of CVT hospitalizations. An additional objective of this study was to evaluate whether CVT in COVID-19 positive patients was associated with increased risk of in-hospital mortality in the 1st year of the pandemic.

Methods

Hypothesis

Our primary hypothesis was that there would be an increase in the rate of CVT hospitalizations or CVT in-hospital mortality between the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic and the preceding year. Our secondary hypothesis was that there would be no association between the burden of COVID-19 admissions and CVT hospitalizations. Furthermore, given the higher mortality observed in ischemic stroke patients with COVID-19,²⁸ we hypothesized that CVT hospitalization in a COVID-19 patient would confer a higher risk of mortality compared to a patient

Received: February 25, 2022

Revised: April 8, 2022

Accepted: April 15, 2022

Full list of authors in Appendices 1 and 2.

without COVID-19.

Study design

We conducted a cross-sectional study evaluating the monthly volumes and mortality of consecutive patients hospitalized with a diagnosis of CVT or COVID-19 from January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021. Case ascertainment was verified by a physician, stroke, or research coordinator at each site. This study followed the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) reporting guideline (Supplementary Table 1).

Setting and participants

Data were collected from collaborators of the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology, the European Stroke Organization, the Middle East North Africa Stroke and Interventional Neurotherapies Organization, the Japan Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology, the Latin America Stroke Group, and additional academic partners. Of 450 centers invited to participate in this global study of the impact of COVID-19 on cerebrovascular disease (including stroke, CVT, and subarachnoid hemorrhage), data were received from 275 centers. Of these 275 centers, 177 centers submitted data related to CVT. There were six centers with missing data prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, yielding 171 centers across six continents and 49 countries for the CVT analysis. For some months, there was missing CVT data from eight centers, yielding 163 centers for the 1-year volume comparative analysis (Figure 1). The study size was based on the number of submitted cases with complete data for each variable.

Comprehensive stroke centers (CSC) were defined by the availability of mechanical thrombectomy for ischemic stroke on January 1, 2019. All other centers were defined as primary

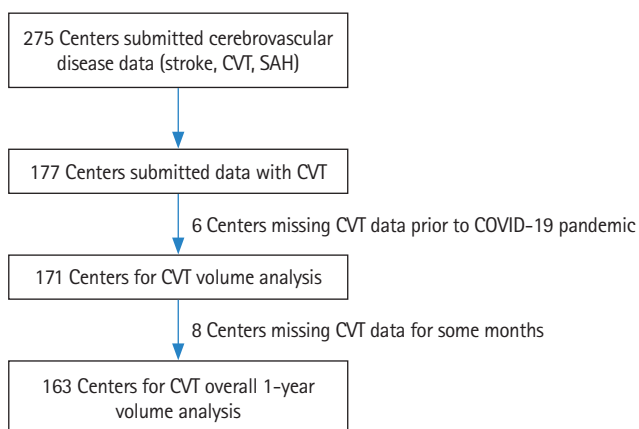


Figure 1. Study flow chart. CVT, cerebral venous thrombosis; SAH, subarachnoid hemorrhage; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

stroke centers (PSC). Centers were divided into tertiles (low, intermediate, high) by COVID-19 monthly hospitalization volume (Supplementary Table 2).

The start date of the pandemic in each country was determined as the date of the first reported case of COVID-19 (Supplementary Table 3). We defined the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic using a minimum doubling of case volume following a >50% decline in case volume from the previous wave's peak. The start date for this occurrence was chosen as the case volume minimum closest to the second wave (Supplementary Table 3).²⁹ The study's primary data collection was conducted between May 1, 2021 and September 15, 2021. Follow-up queries to sites were completed by January 1, 2022.

Study variables and outcome measures

We collected monthly CVT hospitalization volume, CVT in-hospital mortality, and COVID-19 hospitalization volume. For patients hospitalized with CVT, the diagnosis had to be confirmed by neuroimaging with computed tomography venogram or magnetic resonance venogram. We recorded whether the CVT patient had concomitant COVID-19; we also collected thrombocytopenia status. CVT hospitalizations were identified using International Classification of Disease-10 (ICD-10) codes or prospectively maintained stroke databases. The following ICD-10 codes were used: G08 (intracranial phlebitis and thrombophlebitis), I63.6 (cerebral infarction due to CVT, nonpyogenic), I67.6 (nonpyogenic thrombosis of intracranial venous system), O22.5 (CVT in pregnancy). COVID-19 hospitalization was defined as any patient admitted with COVID-19 diagnosis to a participating center, including those without any neurologic diagnosis, utilizing ICD-10 code U07.1. Cases of confirmed or probable VITT were identified using the American Society of Hematology definitive diagnostic criteria.³⁰ Confirmed cases met all five criteria and probable cases met clinical criteria with incomplete laboratory testing.

Standard protocol approvals, registrations, and patient consents

This was an investigator-initiated study. The Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) from the coordinating sites (Emory University and Boston Medical Center) considered that the investigators did not have access to protected health information in this follow-up study, and thus no IRB oversight was required since the study did not meet the United States federal description of human subject research. Investigators sought local IRB or ethics approval when required by local regulations. Informed consent was waived because of the retrospective nature of this study and because the research was considered no more than

minimal risk. The study was registered under NCT04934020.

Bias

Data verification was conducted by the lead author (T.N.N.) following submission by sites. In order to fully capture volume and mortality data, data collection was completed more than 3 months after the last date of patient inclusion to avoid incomplete data bias with any lag in data reporting. Centers contributing data within a stroke network were instructed to include transfer patients from the site of initial evaluation only. In nations with either consistently high COVID-19 case volumes or consistently near-zero case volumes, pandemic waves were obscured and not well captured.

Statistical analysis

We compared percentage change in the absolute number of CVT admissions for the following periods: (1) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and (2) first 5 months of 2019 vs. 2020, 2019 vs. 2021, and 2020 vs. 2021. The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for percentage change were calculated using the Wilson procedure without correction for continuity. The differences in admissions across the two periods were assessed for significance using the Poisson means test. The analysis was repeated by stroke center (primary or comprehensive) and hospital COVID-19 volume (low, intermediate, or high). The relative percentage decrease in volume between different categories (for example, low vs. intermediate hospital volume) was tested

Table 1. Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis admissions: overall 1-year and monthly volumes before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

Variable	Overall volume					Monthly volume*			
	No. of hospital	No. †	No. ‡	Change	P	No. of hospital	Before COVID-19	During COVID-19	P
Overall	163	1,139	1,174	3.1 (2.2–4.2)	0.47	171	0.60±0.12	0.61±0.12	0.97
Primary vs. comprehensive stroke center [§]									
Primary	39	201	229	13.9 (9.8–19.4)	0.18	42	0.52±0.16	0.57±0.18	0.20
Comprehensive	124	938	945	0.7 (0.4–1.5)	0.87	129	0.70±0.18	0.69±0.17	0.66
Center COVID-19 volume									
Low	51	216	246	13.9 (9.9–19.1)	0.16	52	0.50±0.12	0.55±0.13	0.11
Intermediate	50	267	312	16.9 (12.8–21.8)	0.06	50	0.39±0.21	0.47±0.21	0.07
High	49	536	509	-5.0 (-7.2 to -3.5)	0.40	52	1.07±0.26	1.02±0.26	0.43

Values are presented as percentage (95% confidence interval) or adjusted mean±standard error. COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

*The monthly volume analysis is adjusted for the date of peak COVID-19 volume for each country, the start date of the second wave, and the continent; †Number of admissions during 12 months before the COVID-19 pandemic; ‡Number of admissions during 12 months of COVID-19 pandemic; §Primary vs. Comprehensive, *P*<0.0001; || Low vs. Intermediate (*P*=0.366), Low vs. High (*P*=not available), Intermediate vs. High (*P*=not available).

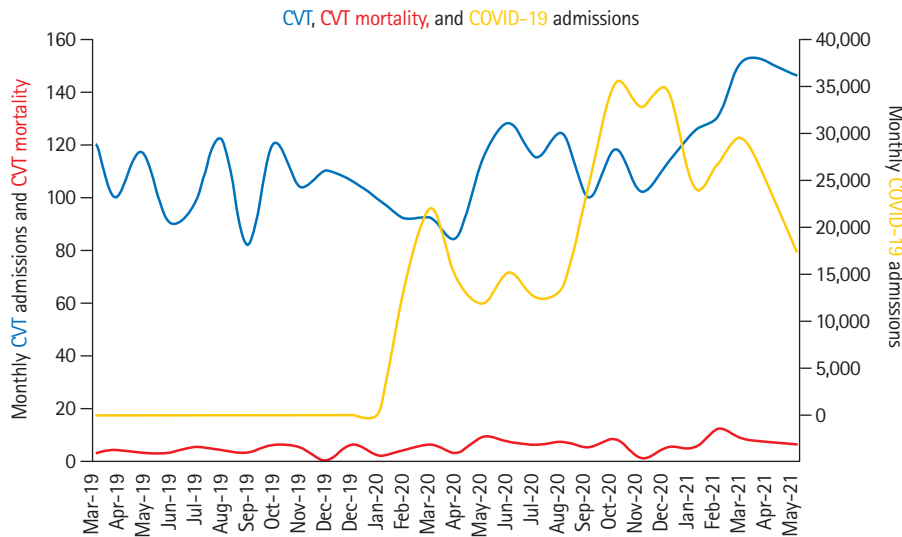


Figure 2. Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT), CVT mortality, and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) admissions. CVT admissions are based on data submitted from 171 centers. COVID-19 admissions are based on data submitted from 154/171 centers.

using the z-test of proportion.

In addition to absolute volume analysis, we also compared average monthly volumes (admissions/month) of CVT admissions for the aforementioned periods. The data were analyzed in a mixed design using a repeated-measures analysis of variance (PROC MIXED analysis in SAS) accounting for the paired data structure and potential covariates. The unstructured matrix was the best fit and used for the analyses. The monthly hospital volume analysis was adjusted for the date of peak COVID-19 volume for each country, the start date of the second wave, and the continent. Estimated marginal means were calculated using the least square means (LSMEANS) statement in PROC MIXED. Like the overall volume analysis, monthly volume analysis was stratified by stroke center and COVID-19 volume.

Finally, we compared CVT in-hospital mortality rate (CVT mortality/CVT admissions) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and for the first 5 months of 2019, 2020, and 2021 using the chi-square test. The difference in in-hospital mortality in CVT patients with or without concomitant COVID-19 was also tested using the chi-square test. All data were analyzed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA), and the significance level was set at a *P*-value of <0.05.

Data availability

Data are available upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

Results

Across the study period from January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021, there were 3,210 CVT hospitalizations and 329,042 COVID-19 admissions across 171 centers. During the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic from January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021 (adjusting for the month in which the pandemic began in each country), there were 217,560 COVID-19 hospitalizations across 154 of 171 centers that submitted CVT and COVID data. There were 2,313 CVT admissions across the pandemic and pre-pandemic years (Table 1 and Figure 2).

CVT hospitalization volume

Over the 1 year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no difference in overall CVT hospitalization volume compared to the prior year (pre-pandemic 1,139 vs. pandemic 1,174; 3.1%; 95% CI, 2.2 to 4.2; *P*=0.47). No difference was observed in overall monthly volume before and during the COVID-19 pandemic (0.60 vs. 0.61, *P*=0.97), adjusting for the date of peak COVID-19 cases by country, date of the start of the second wave, and

Table 2. CVT in-hospital mortality rate 1 year prior compared to 1 year during the COVID-19 pandemic

Variable	No. of hospital	CVT admissions	CVT mortality	Mortality rate (%)	<i>P</i>
Overall					
Before COVID-19	138	1,013	35	3.46	0.12
During COVID-19		1,037	50	4.82	
Primary stroke centers					
Before COVID-19	37	196	8	4.08	0.25
During COVID-19		226	15	6.64	
Comprehensive stroke centers					
Before COVID-19	101	817	27	3.30	0.29
During COVID-19		811	35	4.32	
Center COVID-19 volume: low					
Before COVID-19	43	199	6	3.02	0.42
During COVID-19		221	10	4.52	
Center COVID-19 volume: intermediate					
Before COVID-19	42	243	10	4.12	1.00
During COVID-19		267	11	4.12	
Center COVID-19 volume: high					
Before COVID-19	44	483	19	3.93	0.23
During COVID-19		464	26	5.60	

The before COVID-19 period was the 12 months immediately preceding the during COVID-19 period. COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; CVT, cerebral venous thrombosis.

continent. Across subgroups of PSC versus CSC, COVID-19 hospitalization tertiles, there was no difference in overall or monthly CVT volume. However, the increase in CVT hospitalization volume at PSC was greater than at CSC (13.9% vs. 0.7%, $P<0.0001$) (Table 1).

During the first wave of the pandemic in 2020, there was a decrease in CVT monthly adjusted volumes when comparing the first 5 months of 2020 to the first 5 months of 2019 (0.65 vs. 0.55, $P=0.03$). For the overall 5-month volume, absolute declines were observed in all subgroups but were non-significant (Supplementary Table 4). In contrast, during the first 5 months of 2021, there was a significant increase in overall CVT volumes compared to the first 5 months of both 2019 (27.5%; 95% CI, 24.2 to 32.0; $P<0.0001$) (Supplementary Table 5) and 2020 (41.4%; 95% CI, 37.0 to 46.0; $P<0.0001$) (Supplementary Table 6). When comparing 2021 to 2020, significantly increased overall volumes were observed across all subgroups with no differences between subgroups. When comparing 2021 to 2019, increased CVT volumes were observed at CSC (31.3%; 95% CI, 26.8 to 36.1; $P<0.0001$) but not at PSC (14.9%; 95% CI, 9.5 to 22.6; $P=0.28$).

CVT mortality

A hundred and forty centers provided mortality data, among which 138 had complete information on CVT admissions. The in-hospital mortality rate was 3.46% (35/1,013) among CVT

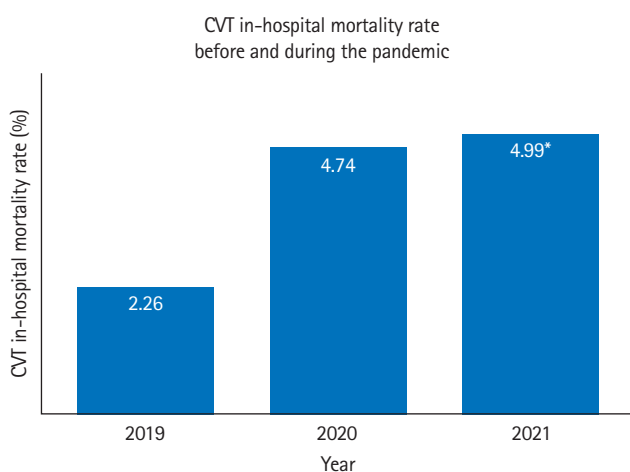


Figure 3. Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) in-hospital mortality rate during the first 5 months of three different year (2019, 2020, 2021) comparisons in 138 hospitals with complete CVT mortality and CVT admission data. CVT in-hospital mortality 2019 vs. 2020: 2.26% vs. 4.74%, $P=0.05$; CVT in-hospital mortality 2019 vs. 2021: 2.26% vs. 4.99%, $P=0.03$; CVT in-hospital mortality 2020 vs. 2021, no difference. *Twenty-six vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) probable or confirmed cases were identified in 2021, resulting in six deaths. Excluding cases of confirmed or probable VITT, the case fatality rate of CVT during the first 5 months of 2021 drops from 4.99% to 4.04% (20/495 CVT cases) ($P=0.1$).

admissions in the year pre-pandemic compared to 4.82% (50/1,037) among CVT admissions during the first pandemic year, representing a non-significant change in mortality during the pandemic ($P=0.12$). No significant differences were observed within or between any subgroup (Table 2).

There was a statistically significant increase in CVT mortality during the first 5 months of pandemic years 2020 and 2021 when compared to the first 5 months of the pre-pandemic year 2019 (2019 vs. 2020: 2.26% vs. 4.74%, $P=0.05$; 2019 vs. 2021: 2.26% vs. 4.99%, $P=0.03$) (Figure 3). However, no difference in CVT mortality was noted between the first 5 months of the 2020 and 2021 (first 2 pandemic years).

During the initial 5 months of 2021, we identified 26 (18 confirmed, eight probable cases) of VITT, resulting in six deaths (three confirmed VITT, three probable VITT) at a case fatality rate of 23.08%. Excluding the VITT cases, the CVT mortality rate during the first 5 months of 2021 dropped from 4.99% to 4.04% ($P=0.12$) (Figure 3), resulting in a non-significant difference in CVT-related mortality between these months and the corresponding months of the pre-pandemic year.

CVT and COVID-19 diagnosis

There were 163 centers that reported CVT patients with concomitant COVID-19 diagnoses. During the first pandemic year through May 2021, COVID-19 diagnosis with CVT admission was present in 7.6% (132/1,738) of patients with continental variation: Africa 25.0% (13/52), Asia 5.5% (28/511), North America 3.0% (15/509), South America 13.4% (15/112), and Oceania 0% (0/25) (Supplementary Table 7). There were 154 centers that reported COVID-19 and CVT hospitalization. Of 292,080 COVID-19 hospitalizations, CVT was present in 103 patients (0.04%) (Supplementary Table 8).

CVT mortality and COVID

During the first 12 months of the pandemic, adjusted for the starting month of the pandemic by country, 120 centers from 41 countries reported CVT and COVID-19 incidence rates, and CVT mortality. There were 963 CVT patients in the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic, of which 910 were COVID-19 negative, and 53 had COVID-19. CVT mortality was higher in the COVID-19 patients compared to COVID-19 negative group (8/53 [15%] vs. 41/910 [4.5%], $P=0.004$) (Supplementary Table 9).

Discussion

In this large, multinational longitudinal cross-sectional study, we observed no significant differences in CVT volume or CVT in-hospital mortality overall, or any subgroup, between the 1st

year of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the prior year. In contrast, higher CVT in-hospital mortality was noted during the first 5 months of the pandemic for 2020 and 2021 than the equivalent months in 2019. During the 1st year of the pandemic, patients with CVT who were COVID positive had higher in-hospital mortality than COVID negative patients. Differences in the year-over-year CVT volume and mortality were observed between comprehensive and PSC. PSC had greater absolute increases for CVT volume than CSC.

No difference in CVT volume was observed between the 1st year of the pandemic, the first 5 months of the pandemic, and the prior year equivalent period. However, reduced volumes have been observed in other forms of stroke over the same time period.^{31,32} In this context, the preservation of CVT volumes may represent a relative increase in CVT incidence, masked by decreased patient presentations for stroke overall. Moreover, the increase in CVT in-hospital mortality during the first 5 months of the COVID-19 pandemic may suggest that patients with milder CVT did not present to stroke centers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since more than 80% of patients with CVT will have a favorable neurological outcome,¹⁴ patients with milder CVT and particularly those with isolated headache may have been less likely to present in a delayed fashion for persisting deficits and may have been missed altogether.

In order to evaluate differences between the early stage of the pandemic, later stages of the pandemic, and pre-pandemic, we compared the first 5 months of 2019, 2020, and 2021. When comparing 2019 to 2020, monthly adjusted CVT volumes decreased though overall 5-month volumes were not significantly decreased and CVT in-hospital mortality was increased. During the early stage of the pandemic, the decrease in CVT volume was similar in magnitude to that seen for overall stroke volume decline in the first wave or first 4 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.²³ The observation of significantly decreased CVT volumes during the initial months of 2020 but unchanged volumes for the entire year suggests differential presentation of CVT patients during the early stage of the pandemic.

An increase in CVT in-hospital mortality was observed in the first 5 months of 2020 as compared to the equivalent pre-pandemic period in 2019 (2.26% vs. 4.74%, $P=0.05$), which may be attributed to concomitant COVID infection during the pandemic (Supplementary Table 7) or a higher severity of CVT disease presentation during the initial pandemic months. The large increase in diagnosis and CVT in-hospital mortality during the first 5 months of 2021 suggests a substantially different patient population compared to previous years. This difference is

likely explained by increased vigilance by both the public and medical community following the discovery of VITT. One single-center study reported a 262% increase in non-invasive venograms performed during the 3 weeks following the Ad.26. COV2.S vaccine administration pause in the United States compared to the same period in previous years and that patients were less likely to have classic symptoms of CVT.³³

During the initial months of 2021, we identified 26 confirmed or probable cases of VITT, resulting in six deaths, a case fatality rate of 23%. Excluding cases of confirmed or probable VITT, the case fatality rate of CVT during the first 5 months of 2021 dropped from 4.99% to 4.04%, suggesting VITT is an important factor contributing to the overall rise in CVT mortality during the first 5 months of 2021.

Our results contrast with previous studies indicating a potential increase in both CVT volume and mortality³⁴ during the COVID-19 pandemic. These previous studies were smaller, focused on patients with COVID-19 and concomitant CVT,^{9,17,35,36} and captured fewer CVT events than were observed in our study. The low incidence of CVT and lack of a control group of CVT patients prior to the pandemic limit the scope of prior studies. The lack of statistical significance in the mortality outcome of this study, despite a nearly 40% absolute increase, underscores the difficulty in studying CVT given its overall rarity. Additionally, we observed no difference in monthly CVT volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic when adjusting for the continent, COVID-19 volumes, and wave start dates. A previous large study of electronic health record data found an increase in CVT rates among those with COVID-19 infection compared to matched cohorts who had either received an mRNA vaccine or had an influenza infection. However, that study captured nearly 100 times fewer CVT events (23 vs. 2,274) and it is unclear whether the included population is representative.³⁷

During the 1st year of the pandemic, among patients with CVT and COVID-19, we noted a higher in-hospital mortality rate than patients who were COVID negative (15% vs. 4.5%, $P=0.004$). While we could not control for confounding factors, this relationship may be biologically plausible given that concomitant COVID-19 infection has been well documented to be associated with higher mortality in ischemic stroke patients.^{38,39} To our knowledge, this is the first study to demonstrate the relationship between COVID-19 and increased CVT in-hospital mortality across a large, multinational CVT cohort.

While our study demonstrated no differences in CVT volumes or mortality during the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic in a large multinational sample, we drew our sample only from stroke centers. Diagnosis of CVT requires advanced imaging, and the availability of such imaging is country and center-de-

pendent.^{40,41} Any shift of patients towards presenting at non-stroke-centers is likely to lead to reduced CVT diagnosis. Due to the cross-sectional nature of this study, we were limited in our ability to investigate patient-level data. As a result, we cannot determine changes in CVT severity between time periods that did not result in a mortality difference. Further research is necessary to investigate any changes in the clinical characteristics of CVT during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusions

No differences in CVT volume or mortality were observed during the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the prior year. During the 1st year of the pandemic, there was higher in-hospital mortality in patients with CVT who were COVID positive compared to COVID negative. A non-significant absolute increase in mortality may be attributable to the emergence of VITT and differences in patient presentation patterns during the pandemic.

Supplementary materials

Supplementary materials related to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.5853/jos.2022.00752>.

Disclosure

Diana Aguiar de Sousa reported speaker fees from Bayer, travel support from Boehringer Ingelheim, participating in an advisory board for Astrazeneca, and DSMB participation for the SECRET trial, outside the submitted work; Jordi Blasco reported speaker and CEC fees from Stryker and Medtronic, respectively; Manuel Bolognese reported participation in the advisory board (AstraZeneca) and speaker fee (Roche) outside the submitted work; Cristian Falup-Pecurariu reported royalties from Springer Nature Publishing Group and Elsevier, Research Grant from Transilvania University Brasov, speaker fees and honoraria from International Parkinson and Movement Disorders Society, AbbVie, outside the submitted work; Thalia S. Field reports in-kind study medication from Bayer Canada, consultation fees from HLS Therapeutics and is on the board of Destine Health outside the submitted work; Italo Linfante reported consulting fees from Penumbra, Medtronic, Stryker, Microvention, InNeuroCo, and Three Rivers; Patrik Michel reported grants from Swiss National Science Foundation and Swiss Heart Foundation outside the submitted work; Robert Mikulik was supported by project No. CA18118, IRENE COST Action funded by COST Association, by the IRIS-TEPUS Project No. LTC20051 from the INTER-EX-

CELLENCE INTER-COST Program of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, and by STROCZECH within CZECRIN Large Research Infrastructure No. LM2018128 funded by the state budget of the Czech Republic; Jiangyong Min reported consulting fees from Medtronic and Abbott Laboratories; Simon Nagel reported personal fees for consultancy for Brainomix and payment for lectures including speaker bureaus with Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer outside the submitted work; Thanh N. Nguyen reported research support from Medtronic and SVIN (related); Raul G. Nogueira reported consulting fees for advisory roles with Anaconda, Biogen, Cerenovus, Genentech, Hybernia, Imperative Care, Medtronic, Phenox, Philips, Prolong Pharmaceuticals, Stryker Neurovascular, Shanghai Wallaby, and Synchron and stock options for advisory roles with Astrocyte, Brainomix, Cerebrotech, Ceretrieve, Corindus Vascular Robotics, Vesalio, Viz-AI, RapidPulse, and Perfuze, and investments in Viz-AI, Perfuze, Cerebrotech, Reist/Q'Apel Medical, Truvis, and Viseon; Santiago Ortega-Gutierrez reports being a consultant for Medtronic and Stryker Neurovascular and receiving grants from Stryker, IschemiaView, Viz.ai, and Siemens; Aleksandra Pikula reports research grant from CSC Stroke Pandemic Agile Response Competition (SPARC) Grant—National C-VASC COVID-19 Study; Martin Punter reports speaker fees for Alexion Pharmaceuticals; Petra Sedova and Robert Mikulik were supported by the project No. CA18118, IRENE COST Action—Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality, by the project No. LQ1605 from the National Program of Sustainability II, by the IRIS-TEPUS Project No. LTC20051 from the INTER-EXCELLENCE INTER-COST program of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic; James E. Siegler reported consulting fees from Ceribell and speakers' bureau involvement with AstraZeneca outside the submitted work; Hiroshi Yamagami reported research grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb, lecturer's fees from Bayer, Daiichi-Sankyo, Stryker, and membership of the advisory boards for Daiichi-Sankyo outside the submitted work; Osama O. Zaidat reported consulting fees for Stryker, Medtronic, Cerenovus, and Penumbra, research grants from Stryker, Medtronic, Cerenovus, Penumbra, and Genentech; Osama O. Zaidat had a patent for Ischemic Stroke issued.

Acknowledgments

The study was funded by the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology research pilot grant.

References

- Ahmad FB, Anderson RN. The leading causes of death in the US for 2020. *JAMA* 2021;325:1829-1830.
- Chou SH, Beghi E, Helbok R, Moro E, Sampson J, Altamirano V, et al. Global incidence of neurological manifestations among patients hospitalized with COVID-19: a report for the GCS-NeuroCOVID Consortium and the ENERGY Consortium. *JAMA Netw Open* 2021;4:e2112131.
- Spudich S, Nath A. Nervous system consequences of COVID-19. *Science* 2022;375:267-269.
- Elkind MSV, Boehme AK, Smith CJ, Meisel A, Buckwalter MS. Infection as a stroke risk factor and determinant of outcome after stroke. *Stroke* 2020;51:3156-3168.
- Yaghi S, Ishida K, Torres J, Mac Grory B, Raz E, Humbert K, et al. SARS-CoV-2 and stroke in a New York healthcare system. *Stroke* 2020;51:2002-2011.
- Siegler JE, Cardona P, Arenillas JF, Talavera B, Guillen AN, Chavarria-Miranda A, et al. Cerebrovascular events and outcomes in hospitalized patients with COVID-19: the SVIN COVID-19 Multinational Registry. *Int J Stroke* 2021;16:437-447.
- Esenwa C, Cheng NT, Luna J, Willey J, Boehme AK, Kirchoff-Torres K, et al. Biomarkers of coagulation and inflammation in COVID-19-associated ischemic stroke. *Stroke* 2021;52:e706-e709.
- Ma A, Kase CS, Shoamanesh A, Abdalkader M, Pikula A, Sathya A, et al. Stroke and thromboprophylaxis in the era of COVID-19. *J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis* 2021;30:105392.
- Abdalkader M, Shaikh SP, Siegler JE, Cervantes-Arslanian AM, Tiu C, Radu RA, et al. Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in COVID-19 patients: a multicenter study and review of literature. *J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis* 2021;30:105733.
- Rana A, Nguyen TN, Siegler JE. Stroke and neurointervention in the COVID-19 pandemic: a narrative review. *Expert Rev Med Devices* 2021;18:523-531.
- Devasagayam S, Wyatt B, Leyden J, Kleinig T. Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis incidence is higher than previously thought: a retrospective population-based study. *Stroke* 2016;47:2180-2182.
- Otite FO, Patel S, Sharma R, Khandwala P, Desai D, Latorre JG, et al. Trends in incidence and epidemiologic characteristics of cerebral venous thrombosis in the United States. *Neurology* 2020;95:e2200-e2213.
- Coutinho JM, Zuurbier SM, Aramideh M, Stam J. The incidence of cerebral venous thrombosis: a cross-sectional study. *Stroke* 2012;43:3375-3377.
- Yaghi S, Shu L, Bakradze E, Salehi Omran S, Giles JA, Amar JY, et al. Direct oral anticoagulants versus warfarin in the treatment of cerebral venous thrombosis (ACTION-CVT): a multicenter international study. *Stroke* 2022;53:728-738.
- Alimohammadi A, Kim DJ, Field TS. Updates in cerebral venous thrombosis. *Curr Cardiol Rep* 2022;24:43-50.
- Klein P, Shu L, Nguyen TN, Siegler JE, Salehi Omran S, Simpkins A, et al. Factors associated with adverse outcomes following CVT: analysis of ACTION-CVT. *Eur Stroke J* 2022;7(1 Suppl):98.
- Al-Mufti F, Amuluru K, Sahni R, Bekelis K, Karimi R, Ogulnick J, et al. Cerebral venous thrombosis in COVID-19: a New York Metropolitan Cohort Study. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 2021;42:1196-1200.
- Sánchez van Kammen M, Heldner MR, Brodard J, Scutelnic A, Silvis S, Schroeder V, et al. Frequency of thrombocytopenia and platelet factor 4/heparin antibodies in patients with cerebral venous sinus thrombosis prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. *JAMA* 2021;326:332-338.
- Siegler JE, Klein P, Yaghi S, Vigilante N, Abdalkader M, Coutinho JM, et al. Cerebral vein thrombosis with vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. *Stroke* 2021;52:3045-3053.
- Sánchez van Kammen M, Aguiar de Sousa D, Poli S, Cordonnier C, Heldner MR, van de Munckhof A, et al. Characteristics and outcomes of patients with cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in SARS-CoV-2 vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. *JAMA Neurol* 2021;78:1314-1323.
- Perry RJ, Tamborska A, Singh B, Craven B, Marigold R, Arthur-Farraj P, et al. Cerebral venous thrombosis after vaccination against COVID-19 in the UK: a multicentre cohort study. *Lancet* 2021;398:1147-1156.
- Nogueira RG, Abdalkader M, Qureshi MM, Frankel MR, Mansour OY, Yamagami H, et al. Global impact of COVID-19 on stroke care. *Int J Stroke* 2021;16:573-584.
- Nogueira RG, Qureshi MM, Abdalkader M, Martins SO, Yamagami H, Qiu Z, et al. Global impact of COVID-19 on stroke care and IV thrombolysis. *Neurology* 2021;96:e2824-e2838.
- Raymaekers V, Demeestere J, Bellante F, De Blauwe S, De Raedt S, Dusart A, et al. The impact of COVID-19 on acute stroke care in Belgium. *Acta Neurol Belg* 2021;121:1251-1258.
- Sacco S, Ricci S, Ornello R, Eusebi P, Petraglia L, Toni D, et al. Reduced admissions for cerebrovascular events during COVID-19 outbreak in Italy. *Stroke* 2020;51:3746-3750.
- Seiffert M, Brunner FJ, Rimmel M, Thomalla G, Marschall U, L'Hoest H, et al. Temporal trends in the presentation of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular emergencies during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany: an analysis of health insurance claims. *Clin Res Cardiol* 2020;109:1540-1548.
- Nguyen TN, Haussen DC, Qureshi MM, Yamagami H, Fujinaka

- T, Mansour OY, et al. Decline in subarachnoid haemorrhage volumes associated with the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Stroke Vasc Neurol* 2021;6:542-552.
28. Ramos-Araque ME, Siegler JE, Ribo M, Requena M, López C, de Lera M, et al. Stroke etiologies in patients with COVID-19: the SVIN COVID-19 multinational registry. *BMC Neurol* 2021;21:43.
 29. COVID-19 pandemic by country and territory: 5. Timeline of first confirmed cases by country or territory. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_by_country_and_territory#Timeline_of_first_confirmed_cases_by_country_or_territory. 2022. Accessed April 19, 2022.
 30. Bussel JB, Connors JM, Cines DB, Dunbar CE, Michaelis LC, Kreuziger LB, et al. Vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. American Society of Hematology. <https://www.hematology.org/covid-19/vaccine-induced-immune-thrombotic-thrombocytopenia>. 2022. Accessed April 19, 2022.
 31. Nguyen TN, Qureshi MM, Klein P, Mikulik R, Yamagami H, Abdalkader M, et al. Global impact of the COVID19 pandemic on subarachnoid hemorrhage hospitalizations, aneurysm treatment, and in-hospital mortality: 1 year follow-up. *Eur Stroke J* 2022;7(1 Suppl):553.
 32. Siegler JE, Abdalkader M, Michel P, Nguyen TN. Therapeutic trends of cerebrovascular disease during the COVID-19 pandemic and future perspectives. *J Stroke* 2022;24:179-188.
 33. Long CV, Clemente JD, Singh S, Strong D, Rhoten JB, Prasad T, et al. Brain venography performance following the pause of Ad.26.COV2.S COVID-19 vaccine administration. *J Thromb Thrombolysis* 2022;53:359-362.
 34. Baldini T, Asioli GM, Romoli M, Carvalho Dias M, Schulte EC, Hauer L, et al. Cerebral venous thrombosis and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Neurol* 2021;28:3478-3490.
 35. Cavalcanti DD, Raz E, Shapiro M, Dehkharghani S, Yaghi S, Lillemoe K, et al. Cerebral venous thrombosis associated with COVID-19. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 2020;41:1370-1376.
 36. Nwajei F, Anand P, Abdalkader M, Andreu Arasa VC, Aparicio HJ, Behbahani S, et al. Cerebral venous sinus thromboses in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection: three cases and a review of the literature. *J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis* 2020;29:105412.
 37. Taquet M, Husain M, Geddes JR, Luciano S, Harrison PJ. Cerebral venous thrombosis and portal vein thrombosis: a retrospective cohort study of 537,913 COVID-19 cases. *EClinicalMedicine* 2021;39:101061.
 38. Nannoni S, de Groot R, Bell S, Markus HS. Stroke in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Stroke* 2021;16:137-149.
 39. Dmytriw AA, Dibas M, Phan K, Efendizade A, Ospel J, Schirmer C, et al. Acute ischaemic stroke associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection in North America. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2022;93:360-368.
 40. Roushdy T, Aref H, Kesraoui S, Temgoua M, Nono KP, Gebrewold MA, et al. Stroke services in Africa: what is there and what is needed. *Int J Stroke* 2022 Jan 4 [Epub]. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17474930211066416>.
 41. Nguyen TN, Abdalkader M, Nagel S, Qureshi MM, Ribo M, Caparros F, et al. Noncontrast computed tomography vs computed tomography perfusion or magnetic resonance imaging selection in late presentation of stroke with large- vessel occlusion. *JAMA Neurol* 2022;79:22-31.

Appendix 1. List of co-authors and roles

Argentina: Virginia Pujol Lereis, MD (Division de Neurología Vascular, Departamento de Neurología, Institute for Neurological Research-FLENI, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Australia: Alice Ma, MBBS (Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, Australia)

Austria: Christian Enzinger, MD (Department of Neurology, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria), Thomas Gatteringer, MD (Department of Neurology and Division of Neuroradiology, Vascular and Interventional Radiology, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria)

Bangladesh: Aminur Rahman, MD (Department of Neurology, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Belgium: Thomas Bonnet, MD (Hopital Erasme, Brussels, Belgium), Sylvie De Raedt, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Center for Neurosciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium), Robin Lemmens, MD, PhD (Neurology Department, Leuven University Hospital, Leuven, Belgium) Noémie Ligot, MD (Hopital Erasme, Brussels, Belgium), Fenne Vandervorst, MD (Department of Neurology, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Center for Neurosciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium)

Brazil: Adriana Bastos Conforto, MD, PhD (Hospital das Clínicas, São Paulo University, São Paulo, Brazil), Raquel C.T. Hidalgo, MD (Hospital de Base de São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo, Brazil), Daissy Liliana Mora Cuervo, MD (Moinhos de Vento Hospital, Porto Alegre, Brazil), Luciana de Oliveira Neves, MD (Hospital São Carlos, Fortaleza, Brazil), Isabelle Lameirinhas da Silva, MD (Hospital das Clínicas, São Paulo University, São Paulo, Brazil), Rodrigo Targa Martins, MD (Stroke Unit, Neurology, Nossa Senhora da Conceição Hospital, Porto Alegre, Brazil), Letícia C. Rebello, MD (Hospital de Base do Distrito Federal, Brasília, Brazil), Igor Bessa Santiago, MD (Hospital São Carlos, Fortaleza, Brazil)

Bulgaria: Filip Alexiev, MD (St. Anna University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria), Teodora Sakelarova, MD (St. Anna University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria), Rosen Kalpachki, MD (St. Anna University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria)

Canada: Elena Adela Cora, MD, PhD (Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Halifax Infirmary, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada), Thalia S. Field, MD, FRCPC, MHS (Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada), Michael E. Kelly, MD, PhD (Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon, SK, Canada), Aleksandra Pikula, MD (Toronto Western Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada)

China: Hui-Sheng Chen, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, General Hospital of Northern Theater Command, Shen Yang, China), Yimin Chen, MD (Department of Neurology, Foshan Sanshui District People's Hospital, Foshan, China), Shuiquan Yang, MD (Department of Neurology, Foshan Sanshui District People's Hospital, Foshan, China)

Croatia: Marina Roje Bedekovic, MD (Department of Neurology, Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia)

Czech Republic: Martin Čabal, MD (Department of Neurology, Faculty Hospital Ostrava, Ostrava, Czech Republic), Dusan Tenora, MD (Department of Neurology, Blansko Hospital, Blansko, Czech Republic), Pavel Dušek (Department of Neurology and Centre of Clinical Neuroscience, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic), Petr Fibrich (Oblastní nemocnice Trutnov a.s., Trutnov, Czech Republic), Emanuela Hrabanovska, MD, (Uherskohradištská Hospital, Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic), Helena Hlaváčová, MD (Neurology, Hospital Příbram, Příbram, Czech Republic), Lubomír Jurák, MD, PhD (Neurocenter, Regional Hospital Liberec, Liberec, Czech Republic), Jana Kadlckova, MD (Neurology, Hospital Vyskov, Vyskov, Czech Republic), Igor Karpowicz, MD (Regional Hospital Karlovy Vary, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic), Lukáš Klečka, MD (Ostrava, Czech Republic), Martin Kovář, MD (Na Homolce Hospital, Praha, Czech Republic), Jiří Neumann, MD, FESO (Department of Neurology, Krajská zdravotní-Hospital Chomutov, Chomutov, Czech Republic), Hana Paloušková, MD (Karvina Mining Hospital, Karvina, Czech Republic), Martin Reiser, MD (Neurology, České Budejovice Hospital, České Budejovice, Czech Republic), Vladimír Rohan, MD (Department of Neurology, University Hospital Pilsen, Pilsen, Czech

Republic), Petra Sedova (Department of Neurology, International Clinical Research Centre, St Anne's University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic; Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiology, University Hospital Brno, Brno, Czech Republic), Ondrej Skoda, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Hospital Jihlava, Jihlava, Czech Republic), Miroslav Škorňa (Department of Neurology, Masaryk University Faculty of Medicine, University Hospital Brno, Brno, Czech Republic), Libor Šimůnek, MD (Department of Neurology, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Charles University Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital), Martin Šrámek, MD (Military University Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic), Pavel Dušek, MD (Department of Neurology and Centre of Clinical Neuroscience, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic)

Denmark: Nicolas Drenck, MD (Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark),

Egypt: Khalid Sobh, MD (El hussein Alzahar University Hospital, Cairo, Egypt)

Finland: Daniel Strbian, MD (Department of Neurology, Helsinki University Hospital and University of Helsinki)

France: Emilie Lesaine, MD (CHU Bordeaux, INSERM, Bordeaux Population Health Research Center, CIC-EC 14-01, F-33000 Bordeaux, France), Peggy Reiner, MD (Department of Neurology, Hôpital Lariboisière, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Université Diderot, Paris, France), Francois Rouanet, MD (Bordeaux University Hospital Neurology, Stroke Unit, Bordeaux, France), Candice Sabben, MD (Department of Neurology, Rothschild Foundation Hospital, Paris, France)

Germany: Stefan Boskamp, MD (Department of Neurology, Albertinen Krankenhaus, Hamburg, Germany), Joshua Mbroh, MD, MSc (Department of Neurology & Stroke, Eberhard-Karls University, Tuebingen, Germany), Simon Nagel, MD (Heidelberg University Hospital, Heidelberg, Germany; Ludwigshafen City Hospital, Ludwigshafen, Germany), Sven Poli, MD, MSc (Department of Neurology & Stroke, Eberhard-Karls University, Tuebingen, Germany; Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research, Eberhard-Karls University, Tuebingen, Germany), Michael Rosenkranz, MD (Department of Neurology, Albertinen Krankenhaus, Hamburg, Germany), Götz Thomalla, MD (Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Klinik und Poliklinik für Neurologie, Hamburg, Germany)

Greece: Theodoros Karapanayiotides, MD (2nd Department of Neurology, AHEPA University Hospital, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Thessaloniki, Greece), Odysseas Kargiotis, MD (Stroke Unit, Metropolitan Hospital, Piraeus, Greece), Ioanna Koutroulou, MD (2nd Department of Neurology, AHEPA University Hospital, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Thessaloniki, Greece), Lina Palaïodimou, MD (Second Department of Neurology, "Attikon" University Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece), Georgios Tsigvoulis, MD, PhD (Second Department of Neurology, "Attikon" University Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece)

Guatemala: José Domingo Barrientos Guerra, MD (Hospital General San Juan de Dios, de Guatemala, Guatemala)

India: Vikram Huded (Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, Bangalore, Karnataka, India), Shashank Nagendra (Department of Neurology, Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Hospital, Mumbai, India), Chintan Prajapati (Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, Bangalore, Karnataka, India), P.N. Syla, MBBS, MD, DM (Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Kerala, India)

Indonesia: Achmad Firdaus Sani (Dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia)

Iran: Abdoreza Ghoreishi, MD (Stroke Research Group, Head of Stroke Care Unit, Department of Neurology, Vali-e-Asr Hospital, School of Medicine, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, Iran), Mazyar Hashemilar, MD (Neurosciences Research Center, Razi Hospital, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran), Elyar Sadeghi-Hokmabadi, MD (Neurosciences Research Center, Imam Reza Hospital, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran)

Israel: Fadi Rahal, MD (Hillel Yaffe Medical Center, Hadera, Israel), Sergiu

lonut Sabetay, MD (Neurology Department, Hillel Yaffe Medical Center, Hadera, Israel)

Italy: Maurizio Acampa, MD, PhD (Stroke Unit, University of Siena, Siena, Italy), Alessandro Adami, MD (Stroke Center, IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, Verona, Italy), Marco Longoni, MD ("Maurizio Bufalini" Hospital, Cesena, Italy), Raffaele Ornello, MD, PhD (Neuroscience Section, Department of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, Italy), Leonardo Renieri, MD (Interventional Neurovascular Unit, Careggi University Hospital, Florence, Italy), Michele Romoli, MD (IRCCS Istituto delle Scienze Neurologiche di Bologna, University of Perugia, Bologna, Italy), Simona Sacco, MD (Neuroscience Section, Department of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, Italy), Andrea Salmaggi, MD (Neurological Department, "Alessandro Manzoni" Hospital, ASST Lecco, Lecco, Italy), Davide Sangalli, MD (Neurological Department, "Alessandro Manzoni" Hospital, ASST Lecco, Lecco, Italy), Andrea Zini, MD (Department of Stroke, Bologna Stroke Center, IRCCS Istituto delle Scienze Neurologiche di Bologna, Bologna, Italy)

Japan: Kyohei Fujita, MD (Department of Endovascular Surgery, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan), Hiroki Fukuda, MD (Department of Neurology, Japanese Red Cross Matsue Hospital, Japan), Yuji Matsumaru, MD (Department of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases, University of Tsukuba Hospital, Japan), Kosuke Miyake, MD (Shiroyama Hospital, Japan), Nobuyuki Ohara, MD (Department of Neurology, Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital), Manabu Sakaguchi, MD (Department of Neurology, Osaka General Medical Center, Japan), Kenichiro Sakai, MD (Department of Neurology, The Jikei University School of Medicine, Japan), Seigo Shindo, MD (Department of Neurology, Japanese Red Cross Kummoto Hospital, Japan), Kazutaka Sonoda, MD (Department of Neurology, Saiseikai Fukuoka General Hospital, Japan), Yuri Sugiura, MD (Department of Neurology, Toyonaka Municipal Hospital, Japan), Yohei Takenobu, MD (Department of Neurology, Osaka Red Cross Hospital, Japan), Kazunori Toyoda, MD (Department of Cerebrovascular Medicine, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Japan), Takeshi Uwatoko, MD (Cerebrovascular Medicine, Stroke Center, Saga Medical Centre Koseikan, Japan), Ryoo Yamamoto, MD (Yokohama Brain and Spine Center, Japan), Yukako Yazawa, MD (Department of Stroke Neurology, Kohnan Hospital, Sendai, Japan), Takeshi Yoshimoto, MD (Department of Neurology, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Japan)

Korea, South: Jang-Hyun Baek, MD (Department of Neurology, Kangbuk Samsung Hospital, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea), Jin Soo Lee, MD (Department of Neurology, Ajou University Hospital, Suwon, Korea), Si Baek Lee, MD (Department of Neurology, Uijeongbu St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Uijeongbu, Korea), Kwon-Duk Seo, MD (Department of Neurology, National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital, Goyang, Korea), Sung-Il Sohn, MD (Department of Neurology, Keimyung University Dongsan Hospital, Keimyung University School of Medicine, Daegu, Korea)

North Macedonia: Anita Ante Arsovska, MD, PhD (Department of Urgent Neurology, University Clinic of Neurology, University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius"-Faculty of Medicine, Skopje, North Macedonia)

Malaysia: Chan Yong Chieh, MRCP (Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Malaysia), Wan Asyraf Wan Zaidi, MMed (Pusat Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia), Wan Nur Nafisah Wan Yahya, MMed (Pusat Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia)

Mexico: Fernando Gongora-Rivera, MD, PhD (Neurovascular Unit and Neurology Department, University Hospital Jose Eleuterio Gonzalez, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon), Manuel Martinez-Marino, MD, MSc (Department of Neurology, Hospital de especialidades del Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI IMSS, Mexico), Adrian Infante-Valenzuela, MD (Neurovascular Unit and Neurology Department, University Hospital Jose Eleuterio Gonzalez, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Mexico)

Netherlands: Diederik Dippel, MD, PhD (Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Departments of Neurology and Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Netherlands), Dianne H.K. van Dam-Nolen, MD (Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Departments of Neurology and Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Rotterdam, Netherlands)

New Zealand: Martin Punter, MD (Wellington Regional Hospital, Capital

and Coast District Health Board; Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Wellington), Teddy Y. Wu, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand)

Nigeria: Taofiki Ajao Sunmonu, MD (Federal Medical Centre, Owo, Nigeria), Tajudeen Temitayo Adebayo, PhD (Department of Health Information Management, Federal Medical Centre, Owo, Nigeria), Kolawole Wasiu Wahab, MD (Neurology Unit, University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Nigeria), Abiodun H Bello (Neurology Unit, University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Norway: Antje Sundseth, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Akershus University Hospital, Norway), Espen Saxhaug Kristoffersen, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Akershus University Hospital, Lørenskog, Norway; Department of General Practice, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway)

Oman: Amal M. Al Hashmi, MD (Central Stroke Unit, Neuroscience Directorate, Khoula Hospital, Ministry of Health, Oman)

Pakistan: Saima Ahmad, MBBS (Lahore General Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan), Umair Rashid, MBBS (Lahore General Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan)

Peru: Liliana Rodriguez-Kadota, MD (Departamento de Neurologia, Hospital Nacional Edgardo Rebagliati Martins, Essalud, Lima, Peru), Miguel Ángel Vences, MD (Departamento de Neurologia, Hospital Nacional Edgardo Rebagliati Martins, Essalud, Lima, Peru)

Philippines: Patrick Matic Yalung, MD (Stroke Service, St. Luke's Medical Center, Global City, Philippines)

Poland: Waldemar Brola, MD (Department of Neurology, Specialist Hospital Koskie, Collegium Medicum, Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce, Poland), Aleksander Dębiec, MD (Clinic of Neurology, Military Institute of Medicine, Szaserow Warsaw, Poland), Malgorzata Dorobek, MD (Department of Neurology, Central Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Interior, Warsaw, Poland), Michal Adam Karlinski, MD, PhD (2nd Department of Neurology, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland), Beata M. Labuz-Roszak, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, St. Jadwiga Provincial Specialist Hospital, Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Opole, Opole, Poland), Anetta Lasek-Bal, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Leszek Giec Upper Silesian Medical Centre of the Silesian Medical University in Katowice, School of Health Sciences, Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Katowice, Poland), Halina Sienkiewicz-Jarosz, MD (1st Department of Neurology, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland), Jacek Staszewski, MD, PhD (Clinic of Neurology, Military Institute of Medicine, Szaserow Warsaw, Poland), Piotr Sobolewski, MD (Department of Neurology in Sandomierz, Collegium Medicum, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Sandomierz, Poland), Marcin Wiącek, MD (Department of Neurology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Medical Collage of Rzeszow University, Rzeszow, Poland), Justyna Zielinska-Turek, MD (Department of Neurology, Central Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Internal and Administration, Warsaw, Poland)

Portugal: André Pinho Araújo, MD (Neuroradiology Department, Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Portugal), Diana Aguiar de Sousa, MD (Hospital de Santa Maria, CHULN, Portugal), Patricia Ferreira, MD (Stroke Unit, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Central, Portugal), Luísa Fonseca, MD (Stroke Unit, Medicine Department, Centro Hospitalar Universitário S.João, Portugal), João Pedro Marto, MD, MSc (Department of Neurology, Hospital de Egas Moniz, Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Ocidental, Lisbon, Portugal), Ana Paiva Nunes, MD (Stroke Unit, Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Central, Portugal), M. Luís Silva, MD (Centro Hospitalar Universitário S.João, Portugal), Pedro Castro, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Centro Hospitalar Universitário S.João, Portugal), Mariana Rocha, MD (Neurology Department, Centro Hospitalar Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho, Portugal), Miguel Rodrigues, MD (Neurology Department, Hospital Garcia de Orta, Almada, Portugal), Teresa Pinho e Melo, MD (Hospital de Santa Maria-Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte, Portugal)

Romania: Bogdan Ciopleias, MD (County Emergency Clinic Hospital Brasov, Brasov, Romania), Adela Dimitriade, MD (Bucarest University Emergency Hospital), Cristian Falup-Pecurariu, MD, PhD (Transilvania University, Faculty of Medicine, Brasov, Romania)

Singapore: Narayanaswamy Venketasubramanian, MD (Raffles Neuroscience Centre, Raffles Hospital, Singapore)

Slovakia: Georgi Krastev, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Faculty

Hospital Trnava, Slovakia), Jozef Haring, MD (Department of Neurology, Faculty Hospital Trnava, Jessenius Medical Faculty Martin, Comenius University, Bratislava)

Spain: Oscar Ayo-Martin MD, PhD (Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, Spain), Jordi Blasco, MD PhD (Interventional Neuroradiology, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Spain), Antonio Cruz-Culebras, MD (Department of Neurology [Unidad de Ictus], Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain), Francisco Hernández-Fernández, MD, PhD (Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, Spain), Francisco Moniche, MD, PhD (Stroke Unit, Neurology Department, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Spain), Marta Guillan, MD (Department of Neurology, Hospital Universitario Rey Juan Carlos, Spain), María Jesús García Sánchez, MD (Department of Neuroradiology, Hospital Universitario Rey Juan Carlos, Spain), Joan Montaner, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena & Neurovascular Research Laboratory, Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla-IbiS), Soledad Perez-Sanchez, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena & Neurovascular Research Laboratory, Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla-IbiS, Spain), Alejandro Rodríguez-Vázquez, MD (Comprehensive Stroke Center, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Spain)

Switzerland: Manuel Bolognese, MD (Neurocenter, Cantonal Hospital of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland), Gianmarco Bernava, MD (Interventional Neuroradiology, University Hospitals of Geneva, Switzerland), Emmanuel Carrera, MD (Department of Neurology, University Hospitals of Geneva, Switzerland), Davide Strambo, MD (Neurology Service, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland)

Thailand: Anchalee Churojana, MD (Department of Radiology, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand)

Turkey: Ozlem Aykac, MD (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey), Arsida Bajrami, MD (Istanbul Aydin University, Florya Medicalpark Stroke Center, Turkey), Atilla Ozcan Ozdemir, MD (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey), Songul Senadim, MD (Istanbul Aydin University, Florya Medicalpark Stroke Center, Turkey)

United Arab Emirates: Syed I Hussain, MD (Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE), Seby John, MD (Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE)

United Kingdom: Kailash Krishnan, MD (Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust), Robert Lenthall, MBBS (Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust)

United States: Kaiz S. Asif, MD (Amita Health and University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA), Jose Biller, MD (Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL, USA), Kristine Below, BS (Neuroscience and Stroke Program, Bon Secours Mercy Health St Vincent Hospital, Toledo, OH, USA), Alex Chebl, MD (Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI, USA), Michael Chen, MD (Rush University, Chicago, IL, USA), Marco Colasurdo, MD (Department of Radiology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, USA), Alexandra Czap, MD (Neurology, McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX, USA), Sushrut Dharmadhikari, MD (Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock, Little Rock, AR, USA), Adam H. de Havenon, MD (University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA), Clifford J. Eskey, MD, PhD (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, USA), Mudassir Farooqui, MD, MPH (University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA), Steven K. Feske, MD (Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA), Nitin Goyal, MD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, USA), Kasey B. Grimmer, RN, BSN (Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock, Little Rock, AR, USA), Amy K. Guzik, MD (Department of Neurology, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC, USA), Diogo C. Haussen, MD (Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA, USA), Majesta Hovingh, MS (Department of Neurosciences and Comprehensive Stroke Center, Spectrum Health and

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Grand Rapids, MI, USA), Dinesh Jillela, MD (Department of Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA), Peter T. Kan, MD, MPH (Department of Neurosurgery, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, USA), Rakesh Khatri, MD (Department of Neurology, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, El Paso, TX, USA) Naim N. Khoury, MD (HSHS St. John's Hospital [N.N.K.], Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, IL, USA), Nicole L. Kiley, PA-C (Boston Medical Center, Boston, USA) Murali K. Kolikonda, MD (Baptist Health Medical Group, Baptist Health Lexington, Lexington, KY, USA), Stephanie Lara, RN, MS, SCRNP (Community Memorial Hospital, Ventura, CA, USA), Grace Li (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA), Italo Linfante, MD (Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute, Miami Neuroscience Institute, Miami, FL, USA), Aaron I. Loochtan, DO (Ohio Health Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, OH, USA), Carlos D. Lopez, MD (SUNY Upstate, Syracuse, NY, USA), Sarah Lycan, NP (Department of Neurology, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC, USA), Shailesh S. Male, MD (Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery, ECU Health Medical Center, Greenville NC, USA), Laith Maali, MD (Department of Neurology, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, USA), Hesham E Masoud, MD (SUNY Upstate, Syracuse, NY, USA), Jiangyong Min, MD, PhD (Department of Neurosciences and Comprehensive Stroke Center, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Grand Rapids, MI, USA), Ghada A. Mohamed, MD (Henry Ford Health System, Emory University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI, USA), Mahmoud Mohammaden, MD (Emory University School of Medicine), Fadi Nahab, MD (Department of Neurology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA), Krishna Nalleballe, MD (Department of Neurology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences [UAMS], Little Rock, AR, USA), Santiago Ortega-Gutierrez, MD, MSc (University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA), Yazan Radaideh, MD (Rush University, Chicago, IL, USA), Pankajavalli Ramakrishnan, MD, PhD (Riverside Regional Medical Center, Newport News, VA, USA), Bliss Rayo-Taranto, BSN, RN (Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, CA, USA), Diana M. Rojas-Soto, MD (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, USA), Sean Ruland, DO (Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL, USA), Sunil A. Sheth, MD (Neurology, McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX, USA), Alexis N. Simpkins, MD, PhD, MSCRN (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA), Amy K. Starosciak, PhD (Miami Neuroscience Institute, Miami, FL, USA), Nicholas E. Tarlov, MD (Community Memorial Hospital, Ventura, CA, USA), Robert A. Taylor, MD (Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, CA, USA), Barbara Voetsch, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, Lahey Health, MA, USA), Linda Zhang, BS (Cooper Neurological Institute, NJ, USA)

Vietnam: Hai Quang Duong (Da Nang Hospital, Da Nang, Vietnam), Huynh Vu Le, MD (Hue Central, Vietnam), Thong Nhu Pham, MD (Da Nang Hospital, Da Nang, Vietnam), Anh Duc Tran, MD (Hue Central, Vietnam), Mai Duy Ton, MD (Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam), Viet-Phuong Dao, MD (Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam)

Last Tier: Patrik Michel, MD (Neurology Service, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland), Osama O. Zaidat, MD (Neuroscience and Stroke Program, Bon Secours Mercy Health St. Vincent Hospital, Toledo, OH, USA), Raul G. Nogueira, MD (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA)

Collaborators: Paolo Machi (Geneva), Elisabeth Dirren (Geneva), Claudio Rodríguez Fernández (Hospital Universitario rey Juan Carlos), Jorge Escartín López (Hospital Universitario rey Juan Carlos), Jose Carlos Fernández Ferro (Hospital Universitario rey Juan Carlos), Niloofar Mohammadzadeh (as data entry staff in Neurosciences Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran), Neil C. Suryadevara, MD (SUNY Upstate, Syracuse, NY, USA), Nina Jancar, MD (Hospital Santa Maria, Lisbon, Portugal)

Supplementary Table 1. STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item no.	Recommendation	Page no.
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	1,2
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	2
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	3
Participants	6	(a) Cohort study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	3
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	3
Data sources/measurement	8	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	3
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	4
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	3
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	3
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4,5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	4
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	3
		(d) Cross-sectional study—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	4,5
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	NA
Results			
Participants Descriptive data	13	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—e.g., numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	NA
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	NA
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	NA
	14	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (e.g., demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	5
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	3
		(c) Cohort study—Summarise follow-up time (e.g., average and total amount)	6
Outcome data	15	Cohort study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	4,5,6
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (e.g., 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	4
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	4,5
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6,7
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	7,8
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	7,8
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	8

STROBE, Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology; NA, not available.

Supplementary Table 2. Threshold values for monthly volume tertiles for COVID-19 admissions

	Low	Intermediate	High
COVID-19 admissions	≤17.9	>17.9–≤115.1	>115.1

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

Supplementary Table 3. Timeline of first reported cases, 1st wave peak, and 2nd wave peak by country

Country	1st reported case*	1st wave peak	Second wave date [†]
Argentina	3/3/2020	10/21/2020	12/11/2020
Australia	1/25/2020	3/20/2020	6/9/2020
Austria	2/25/2020	3/28/2020	6/30/2020
Bangladesh	3/8/2020	7/2/2020	2/24/2021
Belgium	2/3/2020	4/14/2020	7/10/2020
Brazil	2/25/2020	7/29/2020	11/5/2020
Bulgaria	3/8/2020	4/27/2020	5/30/2020
Canada	1/25/2020	4/22/2020	8/17/2020
Chile	3/3/2020	6/12/2020	11/24/2020
China	12/1/2019	2/14/2020	5/19/2020
Colombia	3/6/2020	8/16/2020	10/4/2020
Croatia	2/25/2020	4/1/2020	6/7/2020
Czech Republic	3/1/2020	3/31/2020	5/13/2020
Denmark	2/27/2020	4/9/2020	7/8/2020
Egypt	2/14/2020	6/16/2020	10/9/2020
Finland	1/29/2020	4/10/2020	7/30/2020
France	1/24/2020	4/18/2020	6/28/2020
Germany	1/27/2020	4/2/2020	6/15/2020
Greece	2/26/2020	4/3/2020	6/3/2020
Guatemala	3/13/2020	7/18/2020	9/5/2020
India	1/30/2020	9/16/2020	2/14/2021
Indonesia	3/2/2020	2/1/2021	5/18/2021
Iran	2/19/2020	4/2/2020	5/3/2020
Israel	2/21/2020	4/5/2020	5/24/2020
Italy	1/30/2020	3/26/2020	6/3/2020
Japan	1/16/2020	4/5/2020	5/27/2020
Kenya	3/13/2020	8/3/2020	9/20/2020
Korea	1/20/2020	3/4/2020	5/6/2020
Macedonia	2/26/2020	4/18/2020	5/8/2020
Malaysia	1/25/2020	4/8/2020	6/6/2020
Mexico	2/28/2020	8/1/2020	9/22/2020
Netherlands	2/27/2020	4/11/2020	7/10/2020
New Zealand	2/28/2020	4/5/2020	8/10/2020
Nigeria	2/27/2020	7/2/2020	10/25/2020
Norway	2/26/2020	3/28/2020	7/22/2020
Oman	2/24/2020	7/15/2020	8/23/2020
Pakistan	2/26/2020	6/19/2020	9/1/2020
Peru	3/6/2020	6/2/2020	7/5/2020
Phillippines	1/30/2020	8/15/2020	1/7/2021
Poland	3/4/2020	11/11/2020	2/8/2021

Supplementary Table 3. Continued

Country	1st reported case*	1st wave peak	Second wave date [†]
Portugal	3/2/2020	4/11/2020	8/9/2020
Republic of Moldova	3/7/2020	12/11/2020	1/22/2021
Romania	2/26/2020	4/17/2020	6/2/2020
Singapore	1/23/2020	4/26/2020	6/10/2020
Slovakia	3/6/2020	4/20/20	6/4/2020
Spain	1/31/2020	3/31/2020	7/5/2020
Sweden	1/31/2020	6/24/2020	9/2/2020
Switzerland	2/25/2020	3/25/2020	6/8/2020
Taiwan	1/13/2020	3/25/2020	2/17/2021
Thailand	1/13/2020	4/3/2020	11/20/2020
Tunisia	3/2/2020	4/6/2020	6/9/2020
Turkey	3/10/2020	4/16/2020	6/23/2020
United Arab Emirates	1/29/2020	5/22/2020	8/8/2020
United Kingdom	1/31/2020	4/8/2020	7/7/2020
United States	1/20/2020	4/9/2020	7/11/2020
Vietnam	1/23/2020	4/1/2020	7/14/2021

All data of the wave peaks obtained from <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus> a joint project of the University of Oxford and Global Change Data Lab. *All data of the first reported case by country, defining the onset of the pandemic of the country obtained from Wikipedia²⁹; [†]Definition of the second wave: the number of coronavirus disease 2019 cases must decline >50% from the previous wave's peak and more than double at the next peak. The start date for this occurrence was chosen as the minimum closest to the second wave.

Supplementary Table 4. Cerebral venous thrombosis admissions; overall and monthly volumes first 5 months: 2019 vs. 2020

Variable	Overall volume					Monthly volume*			
	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [†]	Change	P	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [†]	P
Overall	162	498	449	-9.8 (-12.7 to -7.5)	0.11	169	0.65±0.12	0.55±0.11	0.03
Primary vs. comprehensive stroke center [§]									
Primary	39	114	93	-18.4 (-26.5 to -12.4)	0.15	41	0.63±0.18	0.50±0.16	0.19
Comprehensive	123	384	356	-7.3 (-10.3 to -5.1)	0.30	128	0.68±0.18	0.59±0.17	0.07
Center COVID-19 volume									
Low	50	79	72	-8.9 (-17.2 to -4.4)	0.57	51	0.62±0.12	0.57±0.09	0.53
Intermediate	49	106	100	-5.7 (-11.8 to -2.6)	0.68	50	0.51±0.19	0.47±0.18	0.38
High	49	236	211	-10.6 (-15.2 to -7.3)	0.24	51	1.15±0.27	1.03±0.26	0.23

Values are presented as percentage (95% confidence interval) or adjusted mean±standard error. COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

[†]The monthly volume analysis is adjusted for the date of peak COVID-19 volume for each country, the start date of the second wave, and the continent; [†]Number of admissions during first 5 months of 2019; [†]Number of admissions during the first 5 months of 2020; [§]Primary vs. Comprehensive, *P*=0.001; ^{||} Low vs. Intermediate (*P*=0.40), Low vs. High (*P*=0.67), Intermediate vs. High (*P*=0.15).

Supplementary Table 5. Cerebral venous thrombosis admissions; overall and monthly volumes first 5 months: 2019 vs. 2021

Variable	Overall volume					Monthly volume*			
	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [†]	Change	P	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [‡]	P
Overall	162	498	635	27.5 (24.2–32.0)	<0.0001	169	0.60±0.14	0.72±0.15	0.09
Primary vs. comprehensive stroke center [§]									
Primary	39	114	131	14.9 (9.5–22.6)	0.28	41	0.73±0.20	0.80±0.23	0.51
Comprehensive	123	384	504	31.3 (26.8–36.1)	<0.0001	128	0.59±0.21	0.73±0.23	0.12
Center COVID-19 volume									
Low	50	79	102	29.1 (20.3–39.9)	0.09	51	0.30±0.15	0.38±0.14	0.18
Intermediate	49	106	152	43.4 (34.4–52.9)	0.004	50	0.41±0.24	0.59±0.24	0.006
High	49	236	304	28.8 (23.4–34.9)	0.004	51	1.20±0.28	1.46±0.35	0.21

Values are presented as percentage (95% confidence interval) or adjusted mean±standard error.

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

*The monthly volume analysis is adjusted for the date of peak COVID-19 volume for each country, the start date of the second wave, and the continent;

[†]Number of admissions during first 5 months of 2019; [‡]Number of admissions during the first 5 months of 2021; [§]Primary vs. Comprehensive ($P=0.001$); ^{||}Low vs. Intermediate ($P=0.047$), Low vs. High ($P=0.959$), Intermediate vs. High ($P=0.008$).

Supplementary Table 6. Cerebral venous thrombosis admissions; overall and monthly volumes first 5 months: 2020 vs. 2021

Variable	Overall volume					Monthly volume*			
	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [†]	Change	P	No. of hospital	No. [†]	No. [‡]	P
Overall	162	449	635	41.4 (37.0–46.0)	<0.0001	169	0.57±0.11	0.80±0.14	0.001
Primary vs. comprehensive stroke center [§]									
Primary	39	93	131	40.9 (31.4–51.0)	0.01	41	0.54±0.16	0.75±0.21	0.07
Comprehensive	123	356	504	41.6 (36.6–46.8)	<0.0001	128	0.56±0.16	0.80±0.19	0.006
Center COVID-19 volume									
Low	50	72	102	41.7 (31.0–53.2)	0.02	51	0.57±0.09	0.70±0.11	0.04
Intermediate	49	100	152	52.0 (42.3–61.5)	0.001	50	0.37±0.18	0.59±0.20	0.002
High	49	211	304	44.1 (37.6–50.8)	<0.0001	51	0.96±0.27	1.34±0.35	0.07

Values are presented as percentage (95% confidence interval) or adjusted mean±standard error.

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

*The monthly volume analysis is adjusted for the date of peak COVID-19 volume for each country, the start date of the second wave, and the continent;

[†]Number of admissions during first 5 months of 2020; [‡]Number of admissions during first 5 months of 2021; [§]Primary vs. Comprehensive ($P=0.90$); ^{||}Low vs. Intermediate ($P=0.18$), Low vs. High ($P=0.72$), Intermediate vs. High ($P=0.19$).

Supplementary Table 7. Rates of concomitant COVID-19 with CVT admissions

Variable	No. of centers	COVID-19 with CVT	CVT admission	Percentage	95% CI
Overall	163	132	1,738	7.59	6.44–8.93
Asia	43	28	511	5.48	3.82–7.81
North America	35	15	509	2.95	1.80–4.81
Europe	69	61	529	11.53	9.08–14.53
South America	8	15	112	13.39	8.28–20.92
Oceania	3	0	25	0	0.00–13.32
Africa	5	13	52	25.00	15.23–38.21

Time course is from the beginning of the pandemic early 2020, adjusted by each site for country start date (Supplementary Table 2), until May 2021.

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; CVT, cerebral venous thrombosis; CI, confidence interval.

Supplementary Table 8. The proportion of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 with concomitant diagnosis of CVT

Variable	No. of centers	CVT with COVID-19	COVID-19 admission	Percentage	95% CI
Overall	154	103	292,080	0.04	0.03–0.05
Asia	40	14	47,253	0.03	0.02–0.05
North America	34	14	102,920	0.01	0.01–0.02
Europe	65	50	110,522	0.05	0.04–0.07
South America	7	12	20,912	0.06	0.03–0.10
Oceania	3	0	68	0	0.00–5.35
Africa	5	13	10,405	0.12	0.07–0.21

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; CVT, cerebral venous thrombosis; CI, confidence interval.

Supplementary Table 9. Mortality as it relates to COVID-19 status during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic from 120 centers

Variable	Alive	Dead	In-hospital mortality rate (%)	Total
CVT COVID-19 negative	869	41	4.5	910
CVT COVID-19 positive	45	8	15	53
Total CVT admissions	914	49	5.1	963

During the first pandemic year, CVT mortality was higher in patients who were COVID-19 positive compared to COVID-19 negative patients (8/53 [15.0%] vs. 41/910 [4.5%], $P=0.004$).

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; CVT, cerebral venous thrombosis.