

6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Brain Disorders and Therapeutics

September 13-15, 2018 | Copenhagen, Denmark

## Stroke in very old persons

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Presently, there is limited information on stroke care in the very old (80 years and older). In part, this is due to a paucity of publications on stroke in the elderly and low participation of this group. Population aging is a summary term to describe shifts in the age distribution of a population toward older ages, most in highly developed countries. In 2050, these figures are projected to be 29% and 18% in developed and developing countries respectively. A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted or severely reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. About 85 percent of strokes are ischemic strokes and main etiological factors include high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, diabetes, and obstructive sleep apnea. Stroke incidence rates increase steeply with age. Therefore, we would also expect a rise in the number of elderly patients with stroke in the future. We included in this study 504 patients with ischemic stroke admitted to neurovascular service, in University Hospital Centre "Mother Teresa", Tirana Albania, between February 2011, and December 2014. Aging-related alterations in cerebral vessels might eventually reduce cerebrovascular reserves and increase the susceptibility of the brain to vascular insufficiency and ischemic injury. Such changes could underlie the increase in morbidity and mortality rates following ischemic stroke in older individuals and the high level of vascular cognitive impairment in this age group. Our results constitute a first step in the understanding of stroke outcomes in those over age 80 and the approaching burden and challenges faced by the healthcare system.

## Biography

Redina Hasani is a sixth-year student in the Second Faculty of Medicine in Charles University in Prague. Her involvement in Pediatrics and in issues in her home country that can find improvement has found her as part of the medical community every summer. Amongst her projects are helping assess methods to aid children in need and families through the foundation "Femijet ne Nevoje". She is also the Coordinator for Albania and Kosovo for the newest research project in cystic fibrosis by Vertex Pharmaceutical.

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