Rare aetiology of stroke: Drug abuse

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Objective.– Improve awareness of drug abuse as a rare aetiology of stroke, with a review of the literature.

Material and methods.– We report three cases of cannabis users who presented with stroke of unknown aetiology.

Results.– Three male patients were referred to the physical and rehabilitation medicine unit of the Casablanca university hospital for stroke rehabilitation. Mean age was 45 years; two patients had an ischemic stroke and one a hemorrhagic stroke. No aetiology had been determined. All three patients were known to use cannabis abundantly.

Discussion and conclusion.– Considering our cases, we reviewed the epidemiological, pathophysiological and clinical aspects of this type of stroke patient as reported in the literature over the last 30 years. A better understanding of the epidemiology of toxin-related stroke is needed as well as study of the underlying mechanisms depending on the drug used. This is a major public health issue, which affects the economically active population, especially considering that stroke is the leading cause of acquired disability.

Further reading

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