



# Short Term Hospital Outcome of Ischemic Stroke Patient Presenting with Hyponatremia

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## Research Article

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## Abstract

This observational prospective study was performed in the Department of Neurology and Medicine wards at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh over the period of one year to assess the short term hospital outcome of ischemic stroke patients presenting with hyponatremia. Patients diagnosed as ischaemic stroke were primarily enrolled as study population in this study. Of them 50 patients were selected whose serum sodium was less than 135 meq/L as hyponatremic and another fifty patients were selected whose serum sodium was normal level (135-145) meq/L as normonatremic. The patients were followed up at admission and at the time of discharge. Disability was assessed by the mRS score. Mean age of hyponatremia patients and normonatremia patients were  $64.8 \pm 12.3$  years and  $60.9 \pm 13.1$  years respectively. Male were predominant in both groups. Mean Na<sup>+</sup> level in hyponatremia patients was significantly lower than normonatremia patients ( $127.6 \pm 5.7$  mg/dl vs  $139.3 \pm 3.5$  mg/dl). Even mortality rate was higher in hyponatremia group (12.0%) than that of normonatremia group (4.0%) the difference was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). No significant difference was observed in disability rate between hyponatremia group and normonatremia group (81.8% vs 72.9%). The mean mRS scores at the time of admission ( $4.16 \pm 1.03$  vs  $3.74 \pm 0.75$ ) and at the time of discharge ( $3.56 \pm 1.21$  vs  $3.04 \pm 0.98$ ) were significantly higher in hyponatremia than normonatremia patients. This study result shows that mRS score is higher in hyponatremic stroke patients than that of normonatremic stroke patients.

**Keywords:** Ischaemic Stroke; Hyponatremia

## Introduction

Stroke remains a leading cause of death world-wide [1]. World Health Organization defined stroke as a clinical syndrome occurring due to sudden cerebral dysfunction, producing focal or global neurological deficit, persisting for more than 24 hours, or the patient dies within 24 hours,

which is vascular in origin, non-traumatic in nature [2]. Incidence of stroke in Bangladesh is 2.55/1000 population/year in both sexes [3]. Acute ischemic Stroke affects 795,000 people every year, is the fourth leading cause of death and the most common cause of long term disability in the United States [4]. It is the third most common cause of mortality and most common cause of chronic disability in

developed countries. Modifiable risk factors for stroke are dyslipidaemia, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, valvular heart disease, atrial fibrillation, smoking, ischemic heart disease, sedentary life style and non-modifiable risk factors are age, gender, heredity, high fibrinogen [5]. Hyponatremia is the most common electrolyte abnormality encountered in the hospitalized patient, and the reported prevalence has varied with the nature of the patient population and health care setting studied [6-10]. It frequently develops during the course of hospitalization as a complication of acute illness or a consequence of therapeutic interventions [11-14]. Hyponatremia among hospitalized patients has been associated with increased morbidity and mortality, but whether the mortality is associated with hyponatremia itself or the underlying illness remains unclear [15-17]. Rapid changes in the cell volume as a result of hyponatremia can have profound effects on tissue and organ function, especially the brain. A rapid reduction in plasma sodium concentration can cause brain cell edema, neurological symptoms, including headache, nausea, lethargy and disorientation. If plasma sodium concentration rapidly falls below 115 to 120 mmol/L brain swelling may lead to seizures, coma, permanent brain damage, and death [18]. This study was conducted to predict the short term outcome of ischemic stroke presenting with hyponatremia.

## Results

Age group	Group		p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia) n (%)	Group B (Normonatremia) n (%)	
Age in year (Mean $\pm$ SD)	64.8 $\pm$ 12.3	60.9 $\pm$ 13.1	0.121
Gender			
Male	27 (54.0%)	32 (64.0%)	0.309
Female	23 (46.0%)	18 (36.0%)	
Smoking habit	27 (54.0%)	21 (42.0%)	0.23
Systolic BP (mm Hg)	146.6 $\pm$ 13.9	151.4 $\pm$ 15.5	0.107
Diastolic BP (mm Hg)	88.4 $\pm$ 8.5	92.3 $\pm$ 8.6	0.025
Diabetic	14 (28.0)	11 (22.0)	0.509

**Table 1:** Demographic profile and clinical profiles of the study population.

There was no significant difference in age, gender, smoking habit, systolic BP and diabetic between hyponatremic and normonatremic ischemic patients. But diastolic BP was

significantly lower in hyponatremic patients than that of normonatremic patients (88.4  $\pm$  8.5 vs 92.3  $\pm$  8.6).

Lipid profile (mg/dl)	Group		p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia)	Group B (Normonatremia)	
T. Cholesterol (mg/dl)	184.9 $\pm$ 34.9	178.3 $\pm$ 38.1	0.121
HDL(mg/dl)	35.4 $\pm$ 5.5	36.9 $\pm$ 4.4	0.373
LDL(mg/dl)	119.9 $\pm$ 29.8	108.2 $\pm$ 27.8	0.149
Triglyceride(mg/dl)	167.1 $\pm$ 42.7	153.5 $\pm$ 43.9	0.046

**Table 2:** Lipid profile of the respondents.

There was no significant difference in TC, HDL and LDL between hyponatremic and normonatremic ischemic patients. But Triglyceride was significantly higher in hyponatremic

patients than that of normonatremic patients ( $167.1 \pm 42.7$  mg/dl vs  $153.5 \pm 43.9$  mg/dl).

Electrolytes (meq/L)	Group		p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia)	Group B (Normonatremia)	
Na+	$127.6 \pm 5.7$	$139.3 \pm 3.5$	0.001
K+	$4.1 \pm 0.7$	$3.9 \pm 0.6$	0.646
Cl-	$92.4 \pm 18.0$	$97.0 \pm 15.9$	0.172

**Table 3:** Electrolytes of the patients at the time of admission.

There was no significant difference in K+ and Cl- between hyponatremic and normonatremic ischemic patients.

Clinical features	Group		p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia) n (%)	Group B (Normonatremia) n (%)	
Convulsion	10(20)	3 (6)	0.037
Behavioral abnormalities	5 (10)	3 (6)	0.461
Unconsciousness	9 (18)	2 (4)	0.025
Motor weakness	40 (80)	38 (76)	0.629
Sensory disturbance	3 (6)	2 (4)	0.646
Dysphasia	16 (32)	14 (28)	0.663
Dysarthria	18 (36)	16 (32)	0.673

**Table 4:** Distribution of patients according to clinical features.

Clinical features were almost similar in both groups except convulsion and unconsciousness. Convulsion and

unconsciousness were observed significantly higher in hyponatremic patients than that of normonatremic patients.

Outcome Mortality	Group		Odds ratio	95% CI	p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia) n (%)	Group B (Normonatremia) n (%)			
Mortality	6 (12.0)	2 (4.0)	3.27	0.62-17.07	0.14
Disability	36 (81.8)	35 (72.9)	1.67	0.61-4.52	0.31

**Table 5:** Association of hyponatremia with mortality and disability (mRS>2).

Mortality and morbidity rate was higher in hyponatremia patients (12.0% and 81.8%) than that of normonatremia

patients (4.0% and 72.9%) but the difference was not statistically significant ( $p>0.05$ ).

mRS score	Group		p value
	Group A (Hyponatremia) n (%)	Group B (Normonatremia) n (%)	
Time of admission	$4.16 \pm 1.03$	$3.74 \pm 0.75$	0.022
Time of discharge	$3.56 \pm 1.21$	$3.04 \pm 0.98$	0.021

**Table 6:** Association of mRS score with hyponatremia.

Table 6 shows association of mRS score with hyponatremia. Mean mRS at the time of admission was  $4.16 \pm 1.03$  and  $3.74 \pm 0.75$  in hyponatremia and normonatremia

patients respectively. The difference was statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ). Similarly mean mRS at the time of discharge was  $3.56 \pm 1.21$  and  $3.04 \pm 0.98$  in hyponatremia

and normonatremia patients respectively. The difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Discussion

In this study, males were predominant than females in both groups indicating that stroke is a male predominant disease. Similar result was seen in the study of Goldberg, et al. [19] and Zhang, et al. [20] but opposite result was seen in the study of Rodrigues, et al. [21] where female is slightly higher in number than male in both groups. Stroke, either ischaemic or haemorrhagic, is more prevalent in men than in women [22]. In the present study mean age in group A and group B were  $64.8 \pm 12.3$  years and  $60.9 \pm 13.1$  years respectively. Almost similar result was seen in the study of Goldberg, et al. [19]. Slightly higher mean age was seen in both groups in the study of Rodrigues, et al. [21]. In this study 27 (54.0%) patients and 21 (42.0%) patients were smoker in group A and group B respectively. Almost similar percent of smoker was seen in both groups in the study of Rodrigues, et al. [21] and Goldberg, et al. [19]. Devkota, et al. [23] reported 58.3% of stroke patients had smoking history. It was seen in this study that diabetes mellitus was in 14 (28.0%) and 11 (22.0%) patients in hyponatremia patients and normonatremia patients respectively. Diabetic was more in hyponatremia patients (44%) than that of normonatremia patients (20%) [19]. Overall incidence was 25% which is consistent with the study of Uddin, et al. [24] where diabetic patient was 20% in ischaemic stroke patients. Diabetic was seen in 38.4% and 28.5% patients in hyponatremia and normonatremia patients respectively in the study of Rodrigues, et al. [21]. In this study, it was seen that lipid profile levels were worse in hyponatremia patients than that of normonatremia patients. Mortality rate was higher in hyponatremia patients (12.0%) than that of normonatremia patients (4.0%). Rodrigues, et al. [21] showed that mortality was higher in hyponatremia patients than normonatremia patients. In-hospital mortality was 13.5% and 10.5% in hyponatremia and normonatremia patients respectively among ischaemic patients Rodrigues, et al. [21] which is consistent with our result in case of hyponatremia. Mortality rate was higher among hyponatremia patients than that of normonatremia patients [25]. Morbidity rate was higher in hyponatremia patients (81.8%) than that of normonatremia patients (72.9%) but the difference was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). Mean mRS at the time of admission was  $4.16 \pm 1.03$  and  $3.74 \pm 0.75$  in hyponatremia and normonatremia patients respectively. The difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly mean mRS at the time of discharge was  $3.56 \pm 1.21$  and  $3.04 \pm 0.98$  in hyponatremia and normonatremia patients respectively. The difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Conclusion

This study result shows that mRS score is significantly higher in hyponatremia patient than normonatremia patients but hyponatremia does not have significant mortality and morbidity in acute ischaemic stroke patient in comparison with normonatremic stroke patients. So, it can be concluded that outcome of ischaemic stroke patients with hyponatremia is worse than ischaemic stroke patients with normonatremia.

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