



**Sex and Gender Differences  
in Acute Stroke**

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**Presenter Disclosure Information**

Tracy E. Madsen, MD, ScM  
Sex and Gender Differences in Acute Stroke

Financial Disclosure:  
No relevant financial relationship exists

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I routinely consider the sex and gender of my  
stroke patients during diagnosis and/or  
management.

A. Always  
B. Almost always  
C. Sometimes  
D. Rarely  
E. Never

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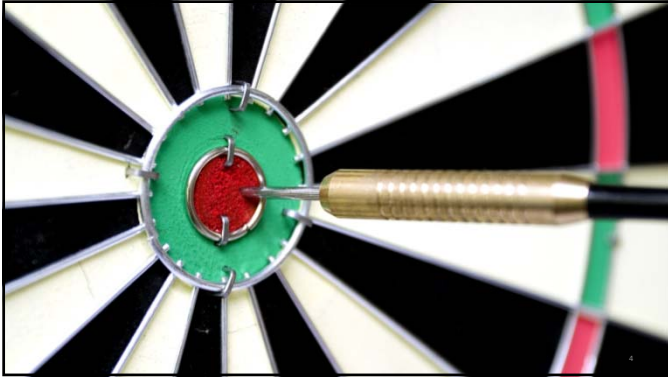
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## Slide 1

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- 1 Objectives for talk:
  - 1 why should you care- ems, neuro, EM, nursing
  - impact on epidemiology
  - impact on outcomes
  - impact on treatment
  - RFs- Dm, Htn
  - what can you do?- changes in prevention? advocacy for women being discharged?

Tracy Madsen, 9/15/2016



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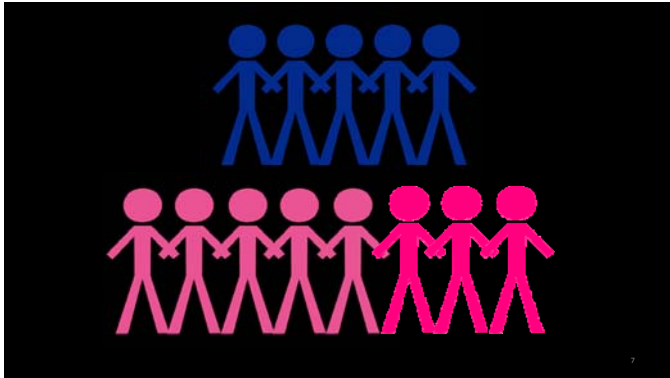
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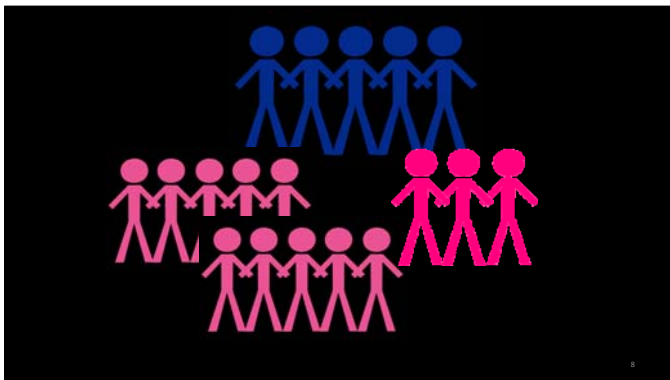
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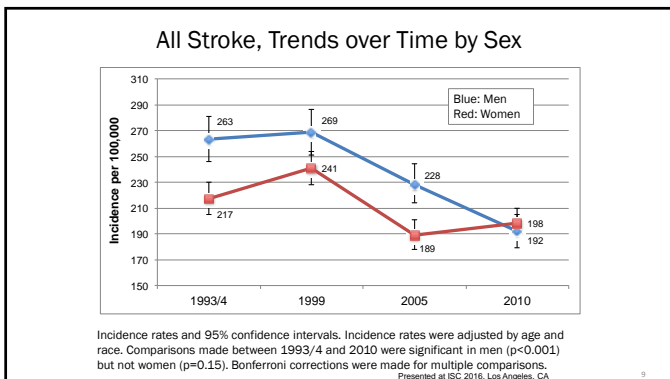
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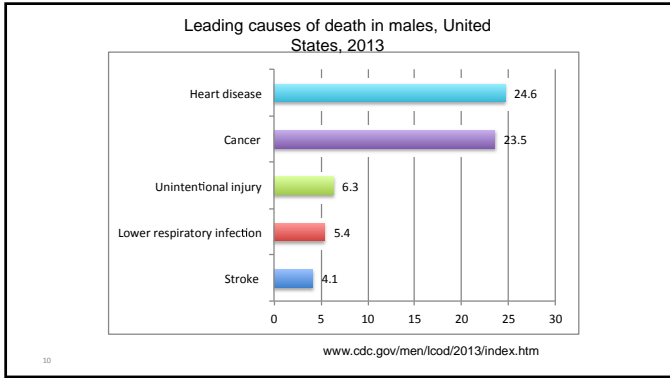
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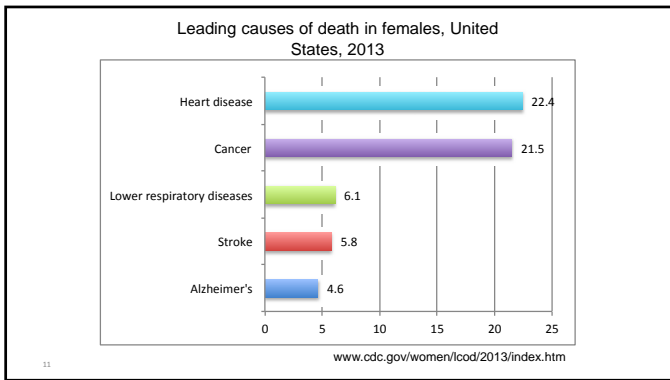
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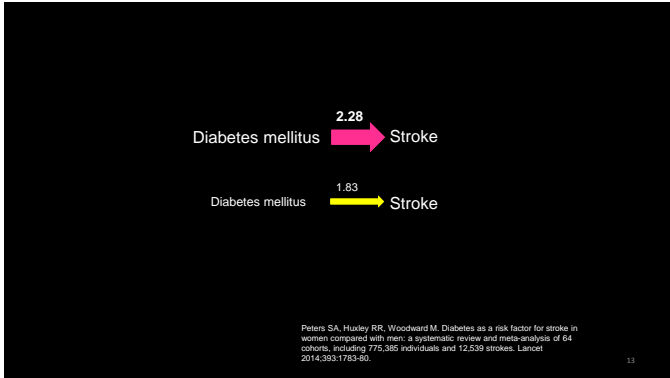
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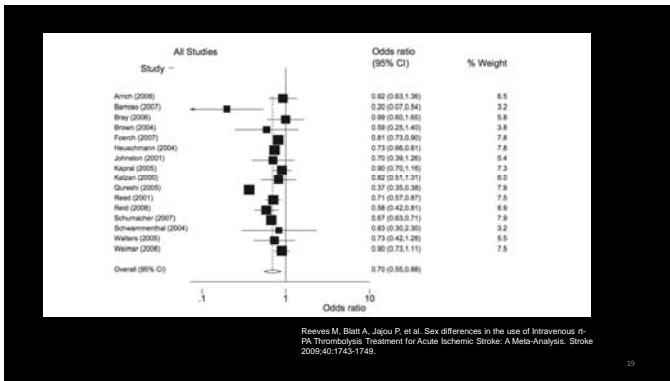
## Slide 18

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**TM1** add other titles to slide

Tracy Madsen, 10/7/2016






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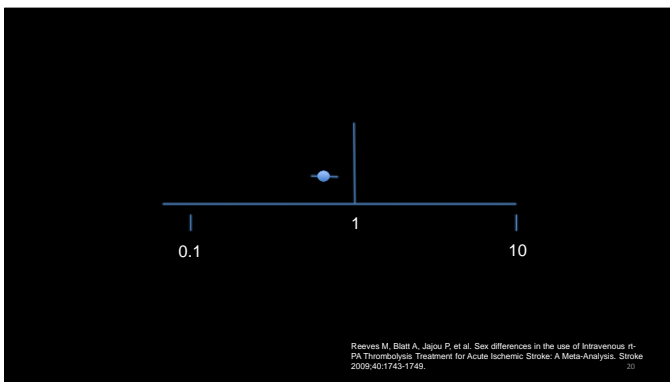
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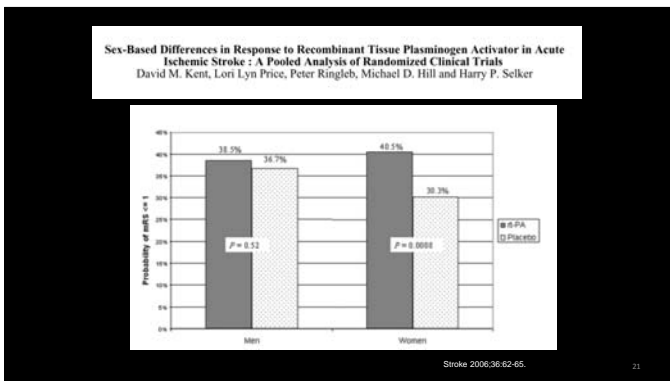
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**TABLE 3. Recanalization Status According to TIMI Grades**

TIMI Grade	MCA + ICA/MCA Occlusion		Isolated MCA Occlusions	
	Women n=17	Men n=22	Women n=12	Men n=13
TIMI3	10 (59%)	8 (36%)	8 (67%)	7 (54%)
TIMI2	4 (23%)	4 (18%)	3 (25%)	1 (8%)
TIMI1	2 (12)	1 (5%)	1 (8%)	0
TIMIO	1 (6%)	9 (41%)	0	5 (38%)

Savitz S, Selting G, Cepian L, et al. Arterial Occlusive Lesions Recanalize More Frequently in Women than in Men After Intravenous Tissue Plasminogen Activator for acute stroke. Stroke 2005;36:1447-51.

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**Analysis of Tissue Plasminogen Activator Eligibility by Sex in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Stroke Study**

Tracy E. Mathon, MD, ScM, Jane C. Khoury, PhD, Kathleen A. Alwell, BSN; Charles J. Moorman, PhD; Brent M. Kissela, MD, MS; Felipe De Los Ros La Rosa, MD; Daniel Woo, MD, MS; Ojovite Ashaye, MD, MS; Matthew L. Flaherty, MD; Pojea Khatri, MD; Simona Ferioli, MD; Dawn Kleinbortler, MD

**SBP > 185 mm Hg or DBP > 110 mm Hg**

Females	Males	P-value
17.1% (176)	12.4% (101)	0.02

Stroke 2015;46:717-721.

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**NIHSS>25**

Females	Males	P-value
2.8% (32)	1.2% (10)	0.01

Stroke 2015;46:717-721.

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**Age > 80**

Females	Males	P-value
35.0% (358)	17.4% (138)	<0.0001

Stroke 2015;46:717-721.

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**Table 3. Overall Eligibility by Sex**

Eligible for r-tPA	Overall	Women	Men	P Value
Standard criteria	114 (5.9%)	64 (5.7%)	50 (6.1%)	0.70
ECASS III criteria	9 (0.5%)	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.6%)	0.43
Total eligible	123 (6.4%)	68 (6.1%)	55 (6.8%)	0.55
In 4.5 h				
Absolute criteria	324	180 (16.0%)	144 (17.7%)	0.38
in 4.5 h	(16.7%)			

Data are reported as raw counts and weighted percentages. Generalized linear models were used for analysis to account for the study design. ECASS indicates European Cooperative Acute Stroke Study; and r-tPA, recombinant tissue-type plasminogen activator.

Stroke 2015;46:717-721.

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**Total Eligible**

Females	Males	P-value
6.1% (68)	6.8% (55)	<0.55

Stroke 2015;46:717-721.

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**Arrival < 3 hours**

Women	Men	P-value
24%	27%	0.15

Madsen TE, Sucharew H, Katz B, et al. Gender and Time to Arrival among Ischemic Stroke Patients in the Greater Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky Stroke Study. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2016;25:504-510.

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**Predictors of Stroke Knowledge by Gender**

Table 3. Factors associated with a low score on Stroke Symptom Knowledge Scale

Variable	Adjusted odds ratio	95% Confidence interval
Male gender	1.36	1.28-1.45
Race		
White	1.0	Ref
Black	1.54	1.41-1.68
Other	2.04	1.72-2.41
Hispanic ethnicity	1.13	.91-1.41
Age, y		
18-24	1.20	1.1-1.31
35-54	1.0	Ref
55-74	1.04	.97-1.10
≥75	2.43	2.25-2.62
Income		
Less than \$20,000	2.87	2.59-3.18
\$20,000–\$35,000	2.19	1.99-2.41
\$35,000–\$50,000	1.62	1.45-1.81
\$50,000–\$75,000	1.31	1.18-1.45
Over \$75,000	1.0	Ref
Don't know/refused	2.55	2.29-2.84
Primary medical doctor	1.33	1.22-1.45

Madsen TE, Baird KA, Silver B et al. Analysis of Gender Differences in Knowledge of Stroke Warning Signs. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2015;24(15):1540-1547.

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**Males were 1.36 times more likely to have a low score on knowledge of stroke symptoms.**

Madsen TE, Baird KA, Silver B et al. Analysis of Gender Differences in Knowledge of Stroke Warning Signs. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2015;24(15):1540-1547.

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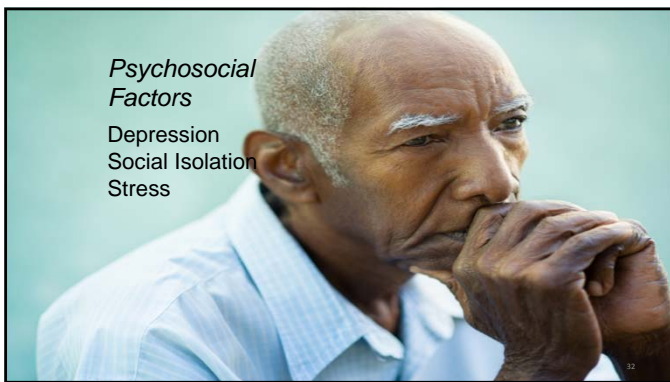
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**Future Directions**

- Stroke **pathophysiology**
- Stroke **prevention** strategies
- Stroke **preparedness** strategies
- Planning** sex and gender-specific research

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A 36 year-old woman with a history of tobacco use, obesity, anxiety, and hypertension presents with severe headaches, right sided facial numbness, right arm numbness, and right arm weakness. Her NIHSS score is 4. As you consider stroke as a possible cause of this patient's symptoms.

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**Which of the following is *not* true?**

- You should ask this patient about a history of pregnancy complications including pre-eclampsia.
- Another pertinent historical factor that will change this patient's stroke risk is the use of oral contraceptives.
- If this patient has a history of migraines with aura, her risk of ischemic stroke is also elevated.
- There may be significant overlap between the symptoms of stroke and the symptoms of atypical migraine.
- You should not consider tPA in this patient as this is likely a stroke mimic, and giving tPA has a high likelihood of leading to symptomatic intracerebral hemorrhage.

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**Based on known sex and gender differences in stroke, what steps could be taken to optimize outcomes for stroke patients?**

- When caring for women who are at risk for stroke or have had a stroke, providers should take into account sex and gender specific risk factors.
- Providers working in the acute care setting should be aware of potential treatment disparities in the use of IV tPA.
- Stroke should be on the differential of patients with pain, altered mental status, and other "atypical" symptoms.
- Following stroke, psychosocial factors including depression and social isolation should be considered and addressed to improve outcomes.
- All of the above.

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