

Original

**INCIDENCE OF HEMIPLEGIA DUE TO CEREBRO VASCULAR
ACCIDENT IN KUWAIT IN 1989: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY**

Musafed F Khamees, MBBS, PhD*
M I Feroz Khan, MBBS, D.Phys.Med** Soad Fakhry AlDeen, MD***

Data related to 393 patients admitted to various hospitals in Kuwait with hemiplegia due to cerebrovascular disease during 1989 were analysed of whom 41% were Kuwaitis. The overall annual crude incidence was 3 per 10,000 population and overall admission rate for the year was 2.42 per 1,000 admissions. Hypertension was the most prevalent risk factor followed by diabetes mellitus, smoking and ischaemic heart disease. The risk factors were more prevalent among Kuwaiti patients. CT scan findings showed a high incidence of cerebral infarctions followed by haemorrhage.

Hemiplegia refers to paralysis and loss of function of one side of the body. The most common cause of hemiplegia is cerebrovascular disease (CVD) or stroke¹. Hemiplegia is a major cause of disability in the adult population of Kuwait. There are many studies from various centres in the world regarding the incidence of stroke²⁻⁸. Some studies are confined to the population of a particular geographical area^{2,7} while others are restricted to a particular community or country^{3-5,9,10}. There are not many studies available in Kuwait regarding the incidence of stroke or hemiplegia. The aim of this study is to establish the incidence of hemiplegia responsible for locomotor disability and to study the risk factors associated with the aetiology.

Kuwait is situated in the north-western part of the Arabian Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Its population was around two million in 1989.