Correspondence

We performed a comparative study of young adults with ischaemic stroke between two centres in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Melbourne, Australia, in 2009 [3]. All the patients in the Malaysian centre had CT or MRI of the brain, 74% received full cerebrovascular evaluation with transcranial Doppler, CT or MR angiography and 70% underwent transthoracic or transoesophageal echocardiography. Our results showed that Malaysian patients from our centre had significantly more large-vessel atherosclerosis (28.3%) and small-vessel occlusion (32.8%) by TOAST classification when compared with Australia, but less cardioembolic strokes (12.6%) and less patients categorized under ‘determined aetiologies’ (5.6%) [2]. Cerebral venous thrombosis accounted for 10.7% of ischaemic strokes among the young women in Malaysia, substantially less than the 21% reported by Wasay et al. [1].

In conclusion, there is a need for further studies from all parts of Asia with extensive use of modern imaging in order to clarify the pathogenesis and aetiology of ischaemic stroke in young patients within the diversity of Asia.

References


Dr. Kay Sin Tan
University of Malaya, Division of Neurology
Department of Medicine, Pantai Valley
Kuala Lumpur 59100 (Malaysia)
Tel. +60 3 7949 3884, Fax +60 3 7949 4613
E-Mail tanks18@hotmail.com