



ACUTE STROKE (AS XIV) AND TELEMEDICINE



Report of the Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine meeting, Ljubljana, 22 October 2021:

Over the years, the Slovenian TeleKap network has proven to be a revolutionary approach to help remote hospitals treat stroke patients across the country where there are no vascular neurology specialists available. The treatment outcomes show that the TeleKap network has become a “conditio sine qua non” in the treatment of stroke patients. Recent scientific advances, new guidelines in stroke treatment and prevention, how to overcome organisational barriers in the national TeleKap network and other areas of telemedicine were discussed with national and international experts at the AS XIV and Telemedicine Symposium.

The **205 participants** in the mainly virtual meeting were welcomed by Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, FESO, Chair of the Stroke Society of the Slovenian Medical Association, Alenka Forte, MD, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia, Prof. Radko Komadina, MD, PhD, President of the Slovenian Medical Association, Prof. Boštjan Kersnič, MD, PhD, Vice President of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia, Academician Prof. Vida Demarin, MD, PhD, FESO, Borut Miklavčič, former Minister of Health, the European Academician Prof. Metka Zorc, MD, PhD, Ambassador of Vascular Medicine and Prof. Tanja Hojs-Fabjan, MD, PhD, the reviewer of the publication Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine.

We began the expert lectures with the thoughts of the Chinese Taoist philosopher Chuang Tzu: **“The perfect man employs his mind as a mirror. It grasps nothing. It refuses nothing. It receives, but does not keep.”**

At the meeting, we discussed strokes and telemedicine, which is evolving faster than ever before. As information technology rapidly advances, so does the affordability of the technical tools to deliver telemedicine. In many ways, the COVID-19 crisis has spurred the explosive growth of telemedicine around the world, in all fields of medicine. The increased use of telemedicine highlights new challenges, as well as the barriers that limit its use, such as licensing, the reimbursement of costs, the impact of telemedicine providers on health services and on the patient's relationship with doctors and other medical staff.

We also discussed important topics in the field of cerebrovascular diseases, such as reperfusion therapy for ischaemic strokes, and presented the new European guidelines for intravenous thrombolysis and the European guidelines for mechanical thrombectomy in acute ischaemic strokes. We highlighted the importance of the urgent treatment of patients with transient ischaemic attacks - TIAs, the effective treatment of acute strokes using anticoagulant therapy after normalisation with idarucizumab, the percutaneous closure of the patent's foramen ovale in stroke prevention, the importance of psychosocial stress and its consequences for strokes in relation to traditional factors, and discussed a number of important facts about strokes.

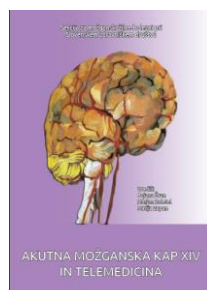
In the section on the epidemiology of cerebrovascular diseases, the author concludes that strokes are a public health problem in Slovenia, which raises new challenges for improving preventive measures and strengthening public health, while at the same time demonstrating the need for a national registry of cerebrovascular diseases.

The editors of the book **Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine**, which was published at the same time as the meeting with the same name, did not want to present established expertise in this publication. These only provide the foundations for new content, with the aim of leaving a mark in vascular neurology. In this way, the principles of past, traditional meetings on acute strokes can be carried forward and co-created.

The **following lecturers** were invited from abroad and from Slovenia: Prof. Andrey Alashev, MD, PhD, Sverdlovsk, Russia; Prof. Anita Arsovska, MD, PhD, Skopje, North Macedonia; Prof. Natan Bornstein, MD, PhD, Tel-Aviv, Israel; Assoc. Prof. Hrvoje Budinčević, MD, PhD, Zagreb, Croatia; Acad. Prof. Vida Demarin, MD, PhD, Zagreb, Croatia; Prof. Hans Christopher Diener, MD, PhD, Essen, Germany; Gordian Hubert, MD, TEMPiS, Munich, Germany; Prof. Francesco Corea, MD, PhD, Umbria-Perugia, Italy; Prof. Jens Fiehler, MD, PhD, Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany; Assist. Senta Frol, MD, MSc, Ljubljana, Slovenia; EU Acad. Prof. Marko Noč, MD, PhD, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Cirila Slemenik Pušnik, MD, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia; Assist. Marija Šoštarič-Podlesnik, MD, MSc, Celje, Slovenia; Simona Šteblaj, MD, MSc, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Marjan Zaletel, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assist. Matija Zupan, MD, PhD, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, Ljubljana, Slovenia.



With the aim of educating the professional public, the CVD Association has launched the **publication/textbook Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine** in e-form. This publication contains the lectures from the expert meeting. In order to leave a professional and educational mark in Slovenia, the National and University Library has assigned a CIP number to the textbook, which can be seen in the COBISS database.



Four pharmaceutical companies (listed in Table 1) participated in the congress.

Highlights from the meeting are published on the mozganska-kap.info website.

It was a pleasure working with you and we look forward to seeing you at the next Acute Stroke XV meeting in 2022!

On behalf of the Headaches Society - Association of Neurologists of the Slovenian Medical Association, we would like to take this opportunity to announce and invite you to our traditional **expert meeting Headache 2022**, which will take place on 28 January 2022.

Best regards,

Chairwoman of the Expert Committee and the Stroke Society
Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, FESO

Member of the Expert Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Stroke Society
Marjan Zaletel, MD, PhD, Senior advisor

Member of the Expert Committee and Member of the Stroke Society
Assist. Matija Zupan, MD, PhD

STATISTICS

Table 1. Data on the participants and the publication

Structure of participants	
Total number of registered participants	227
Total number of performing companies	4
Registered participants	205
Doctors	165
Other medical experts	21
Pharmacists	19
Structure of lecturers	
Total number of lecturers	20
Lecturers from Slovenia	11
Lecturers from abroad	9
Active participation with posters	6
List of participating pharmaceutical companies	Boehringer Ingelheim RCV, Ljubljana branch Eli Lilly, d.o.o. Novo Nordisk d.o.o. Pfizer Luxembourg SARL, Ljubljana branch
Textbook Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine	Online publication and USB card
Editors:	Bojana Žvan, Marjan Zaletel and Matija Zupan
ISBN	ISBN 978-961-93772-9-1, COBISS.SI-ID 81796867
Number of copies:	250
Location:	Medical Chamber of Slovenia, Dunajska cesta 162, Ljubljana and virtually
Organisers	
Expert organiser	Stroke Society at the Slovenian Medical Association
Business organiser	Association for the Prevention of Brain and Vascular Diseases
Fee for attending the meeting:	No fee was required for attending the meeting