

**IMPACT OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEPRIVATION ON SURVIVAL OF OLDER PEOPLE WITH STROKE  
IN CHINA: A 5 YEARS COMMUNITY-BASED FOLLOW-UP STUDY IN CHINA**

**R. Chen, Z. Hu, D. Zhang**

*Anhui Medical University, Hefei, China*

[ruoling.chen@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ruoling.chen@kcl.ac.uk)

**Background:** All-cause mortality among people with stroke is increased with low levels of education and occupational class, but little is known whether it is related to low income. We determined the relationship in older people in China.

**Methods** In 2001-03, using a standard interview method, we examined 3336 people aged over 60 years in Anhui, China, having identified doctor-diagnosed stroke and characterized risk factors. We monitored the vital status of cohort members up to 2009.

**Results** Among 2977 participants followed up over 5 years, 562 died; 53 in 126 stroke patients (42.1%) and 512 in people without stroke at baseline (18.0%). A multivariate adjusted hazards ratio (HR) for mortality in stroke patients was 1.97 (95%CI 1.46-2.65). Stroke patients with socioeconomic deprivation had a higher risk of mortality. Compared to non-stroke people with high income, the adjusted HR in stroke patients with low income was 2.49 (1.52-4.08) and in stroke patients with high income 1.72 (1.10-2.68) while in non-stroke people with low income 1.12 (0.78-1.62). Compared to non-stroke urban participants, stroke patients living in a rural area had the highest risk of mortality (3.09, 1.73-5.53), stroke patients living in an urban area 1.93 (1.29-2.90) and non-stroke rural participants 1.53 (1.01-2.32).

**Conclusions:** Our findings contribute to evidence of the presence of a mortality gradient after stroke for both material and social forms of deprivation. Despite the existence of a system of universal health care in many countries, inequalities in mortality persist and need to be taken into account when implementing intervention programs.