

## **LACUNAR STROKES IN PATIENTS SUFFERING OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA**

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**Objective:** To present two cases of occlusive cerebral vascular disease in which the underlying cause was extreme hypoxia due to obstructive sleep apnea.

**Materials and methods:** Two patients were admitted in January 2014 due to ischemic strokes, both patients have snoring while sleeping. In each, studies were required, thus magnetic resonance image (MRI), transcranial ultrasound, echocardiography and chest X-rays were performed. Lab tests included serum electrolytes determination and arterial blood gases measurements.

**Results:** In both cases, both patients were documented to have severe hypoxia (70 and 75%). One of the patients suffered nine lacunar strokes. In both patients, no cardiac involvement was documented.

**Discussion:** In these patients there was an abnormal vascular activity in the brain which created the circumstances where any given change in arterial oxygen saturation could cause extreme hypoxia. Obstructive sleep apnea remains a rare cause of stroke in patients. These results need a further clinical study in order to assess the neurological decay in these patients.