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**THE RISK OF SMOKING WITH STROKE IN ASIA: META-ANALYSIS****Fadhilatul Hasnah<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuniar Lestari<sup>1</sup>, Abdiana<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Departemen Ilmu Kesehatan Masyarakat, Fakultas Kedokteran, Universitas Andalas, Indonesia\*Correspondence email : fhasnah5@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

This study uses a systematic method of review and meta-analysis to look at the risk of smoking with stroke in Asia. Further analysis based on the stroke subtype (ischemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke) was also carried out. Literature search was carried out in the PubMed, EBSCO and Google Scholar databases. Q tests were performed to determine the heterogeneity of included studies. Funnel plot, Egger regression test and trim and fill methods were used to identify publication bias and with the transformation of the model between the fixed effect model and the random effect model for sensitivity analysis. A total of 12 articles were included consisting of 9 studies with case control design studies and 3 studies with cohort designs. The meta-analysis results showed that people who smoke have risks pooled OR 2.04 times (95% CI 1.57-2.65) for having a stroke. Analysis of the type of stroke, smokers had 2.3 times the risk of having an ischemic stroke or 2.77 times for having a haemorrhagic stroke. Eggers test showed no influence of publication bias on the meta-analysis of smoking with stroke. From this meta-analysis, it can be concluded that smoking increases the risk for stroke. This study found the risk of smokers to have a haemorrhagic stroke is higher than ischemic stroke.

**Keywords:** Smoking; Stroke; Meta-analysis

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**INTRODUCTION**

Stroke is a serious health problem in Asia. A total of 15 Asian countries entered the 50 countries with the highest average deaths from stroke in 2017. Indonesia ranked first followed by Mongolia in third and North Korea ranked fourth. The 2017 Global Burden of Disease Study estimates that strokes will remain second in 2040 as a cause of death in the world. Therefore, the global burden of stroke and stroke-related deaths cannot be reduced substantially without interventions in Asia.<sup>1</sup>

Smoking is a risk factor for stroke. The number of smokers around the world now reaches 1.2 billion people and 800 million of them are in developing countries. According to The Tobacco Atlas 3rd edition, (2009), 57% percent of smokers are in the Asian region. Indonesia is the third country with the largest number of smokers in the world after China and India. In 2030 it is estimated that the death rate of smokers in the world will reach 10 million,

and 70% of them come from developing countries.<sup>1</sup>

The increase in cigarette consumption has an impact on the increasing burden of diseases caused by smoking and the increase in mortality due to smoking, including stroke. At present 50% of deaths from smoking are in developing countries.<sup>2</sup> If this trend continues, around 650 million people will be killed by cigarettes.<sup>2</sup> An estimated increase in smoking risk factors allows an increase in the incidence of stroke in Asia.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

This study uses a systematic method of review and meta-analysis to assess the risk of smoking with stroke in Asia. The meta-analysis research was conducted guided by the Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE). Relevant studies are selected using established criteria. Two groups of researchers were

involved in this study. The first group of researchers is tasked with searching the research literature, selecting research and extracting data from relevant literature. The second group is tasked with evaluating the research included in the meta-analysis. Discussions are conducted to resolve discrepancies and gaps.

#### **Systematic literature search**

Literature search was performed on the PubMed, EBSCO and Google Scholar databases. The keywords used are (((*Stroke OR Ischemic OR Haemorrhagic*) OR *observational study OR Cohort OR Case-control OR Follow Up OR Prospective*) AND *Risk factors OR Smoking OR Tobacco OR Cigarette*))). The limited article year is 1995-2019.

#### **Inclusion and exclusion criteria.**

The research article was included if it met the following criteria: 1) the study looked at the relationship between smoking and stroke, 2) the location of the study in the Asian region, 3) the study design of the cohort or case control article, 4) English language, 5) available in the form of full text, 6) there is enough data to process. The research article is excluded if: 1) research with death outcomes due to stroke or recurrent stroke, 2) duplicated studies or previously published studies.

#### **Data Selection and data extraction**

Literature selection is done in stages. The first selection is done by searching the relevant article title. The relevant article titles are then selected based on the abstract. Research with relevant abstracts is then selected based on information available in full text. The literature taken is carefully reviewed, and various information is extracted for each study examined, including the name of the researcher, the design of the research study, the location of the study, the number of samples, the number of cases, and the risk factors studied.

#### **Data Analysis**

Heterogeneity test is done with the Q test. If  $I^2 \geq 50\%$  and  $P < 0.05$ , then the statistical analysis method used is the random effect model method. If  $I^2 \leq 50\%$  and  $P > 0.05$ , then the fixed effect model statistical method is used to combine studies. Egger regression test was used to identify publication bias. The sensitivity test is done by comparing the results of statistical analysis between the random effect model and the random effect model. The trim and fill approach is used to estimate the central value of the funnel plot to enable stability assessments of all systematic reviews. Data analysis was performed using RevMan software version 5 and publication bias analysis was performed using CMA software version 3.

## **RESULTS**

### **Research Selection**

Literature identification from the database produced 2543 articles. Overall, as many as 2271 articles were excluded because they were not relevant to the research topic, so as many as 272 articles were relevant by title. These articles were then selected based on abstracts with the results of 235 articles excluded because they did not examine the risk factors referred to in this study, outside the Asian region and study designs other than cohort and case control, so that only 37 articles were relevant based on abstracts. Full text based selection was done on the article and resulted in 25 articles excluded due to lack of data listed for analysis. The final selection results obtained 12 relevant articles to do a meta-analysis (Figure 1).

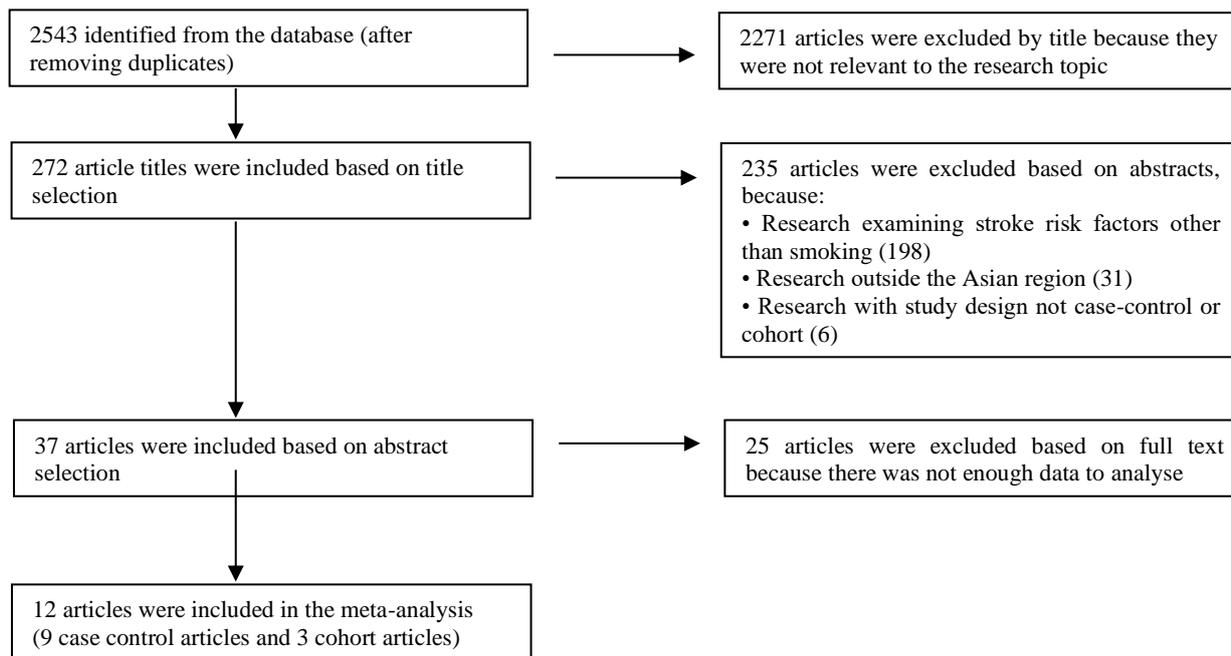


Figure 1. Study selection diagram

Table 1. Research literatur characteristic

| No | Researcher name (Published Year) | Research Design | Research location | Number of Sample | Sex           | Mean Age, y | Number of Cases | Type of Stroke                         |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| 1  | Mannami (2004) <sup>3</sup>      | cohort          | Japan             | 41282            | Men and Women | 40-59 year  | 1149            | All stroke<br>Ischemic<br>Haemorrhagic |
| 2  | Yamagishi (2003) <sup>4</sup>    | Cohort          | Japan             | 3626             | Men           | 40-69 year  | 257             | All stroke<br>ischemic<br>Haemorrhagic |
| 3  | Kelly (2008) <sup>5</sup>        | cohort          | China             | 158666           | Men and Women | ≥40 year    | 6780            | All stroke                             |
| 4  | Bi (2010) <sup>6</sup>           | Case-control    | China             | 14248            | NR            | 35-45 year  | 1988            | All stroke                             |
| 5  | Sharmin (2017) <sup>7</sup>      | Case-control    | Bangladesh        | 100              | NR            | NR          | 50              | ischemic stroke                        |
| 6  | Shah (2013) <sup>8</sup>         | Case-control    | Pakistan          | 150              | NR            | NR          | 50              | All stroke                             |
| 7  | Sorganvi (2014) <sup>9</sup>     | Case-control    | India             | 200              | NR            | 30-≥80 year | 100             | All stroke                             |
| 8  | El- Hajj (2019) <sup>10</sup>    | Case-control    | Lebanon           | 650              | NR            | ≥18 year    | 205             | All stroke<br>ischemic<br>Haemorrhagic |
| 9  | El- Hajj (2017) <sup>11</sup>    | Case-control    | Lebanon           | 732              | NR            | ≥18 year    | 202             | All stroke                             |
| 10 | Feigin (1998) <sup>12</sup>      | Case-control    | Rusia             | 474              | Men and Women | NR          | 237             | All stroke                             |
| 11 | Ismail (2010) <sup>13</sup>      | Case-control    | Iraq              | 346              | NR            | NR          | 173             | All stroke<br>ischemic<br>Haemorrhagic |
| 12 | Bandasak (2011) <sup>14</sup>    | Case-control    | Thailand          | 196              | NR            | 15-45 year  | 98              | stroke                                 |

**Research Charateristic**

This study analyzes data based on what was reported in a research article. A total of

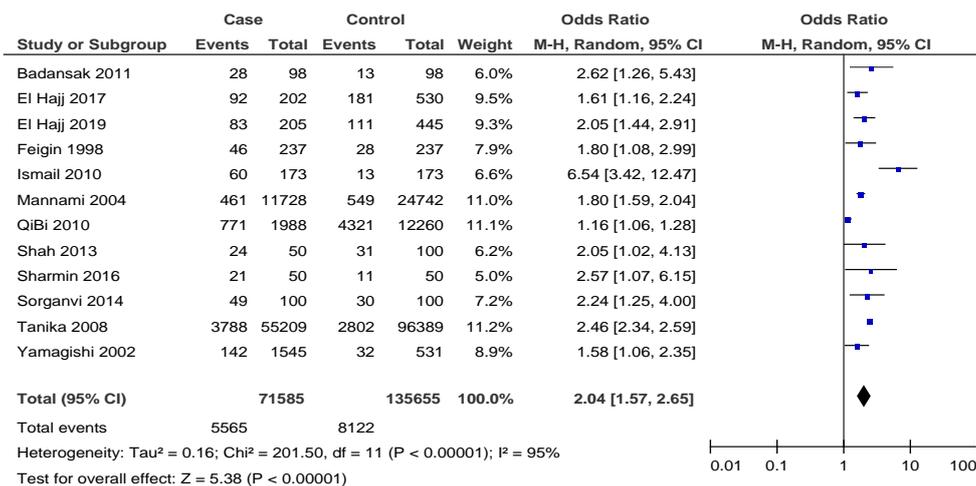
12 articles were included consisting of 9 studies with case-control study designs and 3 studies with cohort designs. The smallest

number of cases as many as 50 to the most 6780 analyzed in this study. A total of 4 articles reported outcomes in both ischemic stroke and hemorrhagic stroke. One study examined ischemic stroke outcomes (Table 1)

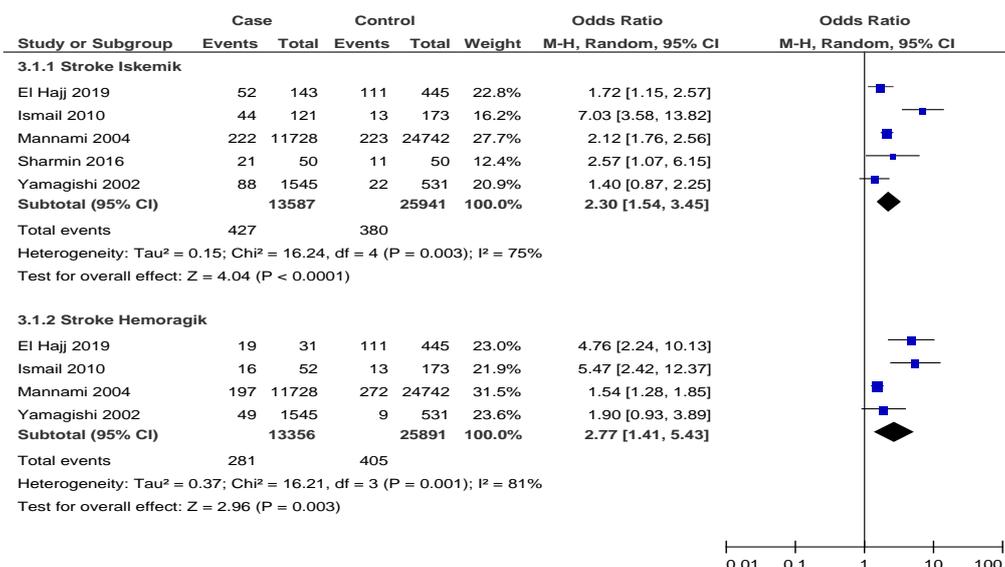
**The relationship between smoking and stroke**

A total of 12 articles were combined to analyze the risk of smoking with stroke in Asia. Heterogeneity test showed that the research variation was heterogeneous with a p

value of 0.05 lower that is  $p < 0.00001$  and the variation value between studies (I<sup>2</sup>) was 95. The results of the meta-analysis obtained pooled odds ratio of 2.04 (95% CI 1, 57-2.65) with  $p < 0.00001$ . For further exploration, an analysis is performed based on the type of stroke. The analysis results obtained pooled odds ratio each of 2.30 (95% CI 1.54-4.45) for ischemic stroke and 2.77 (95% CI 1.41-5.43) for hemorrhagic stroke with a p value  $< 0.05$  i.e.  $p < 0.00001$  and  $p < 0.003$  (Figure 2 and 3).



**Figure 2.** Forest plots the risk of smoking with stroke

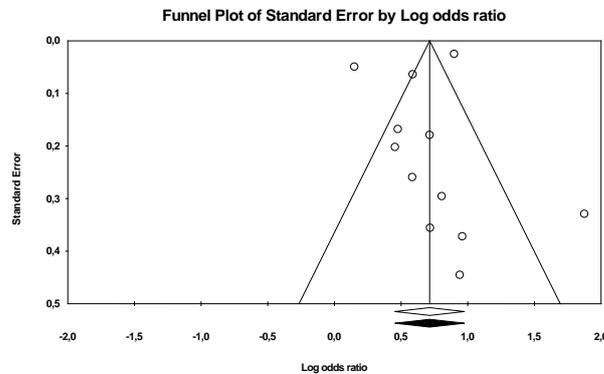


**Figure 3.** Forest plots the risk of smoking with ischemic stroke and hemorrhagic stroke

**Publication bias**

Funnel plot and Eggers test were carried out to detect the effect of publication bias. Funnel plot shows a sissymmetric shape, so it was concluded that there was no influence of publication bias on the meta-analysis of smoking with stroke. This is reinforced by the

results of the Eggers test which shows the results of t-intercept equal to zero, namely  $t = -0,77585$ . Trim and fill using the missing article assumption with a small effect size of the mean effect shows no difference between pooled OR before and after trim and fill (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Trim and fill meta-analysis of smoking with stroke

**Sensitivity Test**

Sensitivity test results showed fairly consistent results in the meta-analysis of smoking with stroke. There were no

significant differences in the pooled OR fixed effect model or random effect model (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Sensitivity Test

| <b>Research Variable</b> | <b><i>p</i> value heterogeneity</b> | <b><i>Fixed Effect Model</i></b> | <b><i>Random Effect Model</i></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Smoking                  | $P < 0,00001$                       | 2,06 (1,98-2,15)                 | 2,04 (1,57-2,65)                  |

**DISCUSSION**

The total number of participants in the risk analysis of smoking with stroke was 207,240 participants, which was the total participants of all articles combined. The results of a smoking meta-analysis with stroke showed that smokers were 2.04 times more likely to suffer a stroke than nonsmokers. The analysis based on the stroke subtype shows that smokers are 2.3 times more likely to have an ischemic stroke than nonsmokers and 2.77 times more likely to have a hemorrhagic stroke than nonsmokers.

Several meta-analyzes of the risk of smoking with stroke have been conducted. One of them by Pan, et al (2019) included as many as 14 research articles with the results of the study showing the significance of smoking with stroke with a pooled odds ratio

(OR) 1.61 (95% CI, 1.34-1.93).<sup>15</sup> Another meta-analysis study by Hackshaw (2018) with results that showed a risk of 1.25 times in male smokers and 1.31 times in female smokers to have a stroke.<sup>16</sup>

Stroke in smokers can be triggered by cigarette smoke which contains more than 7,000 toxic chemicals. These chemicals will change and damage cells throughout the body. Changes caused by these chemicals increase the risk of stroke in smokers.<sup>17, 18</sup> There are various mechanisms by which smoking can cause ischemic strokes. First smoking is associated with the process of accelerating the decrease in blood flow in the brain caused by vasoconstriction, which accelerates the formation of thrombus. Second, smoking lowers HDL cholesterol and injures endothelial cells, which causes atheroma.

These effects increase the risk of ischemic stroke. While the mechanism between smoking and the risk of haemorrhagic stroke is uncertain.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to cigarette smoke, some of the literature included in this meta-analysis states that the number of cigarettes and duration of smoking also triggers strokes in smokers. Several other studies report that the more cigarette consumption, the higher the risk of stroke, including research by Mannami (2004), El Hajj (2019) and Tanika (2008). Research by Mannami (2004), Yamagishi (2002), Tanika (2008), Sorganvi (2014) and El Hajj (2019), reported the risk of smoking with stroke if consuming cigarettes >20 cigarettes / day.

In contrast to other meta-analyses of the risk of smoking with stroke, this meta-analysis focuses on the risk of smoking with stroke with a focus on Asian countries. The results of this meta-analysis show that smoking significantly increases the risk of stroke in both ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes. Although not analyzed further in this meta-analysis, the findings from some of the combined literature can be concluded that the number of cigarettes consumed by smokers daily also increases the risk of stroke in smokers.

There are several limitations in this study. First, the heterogeneity observed in this meta-analysis is the result of different participant characteristics and different definitions of risk factors. Second, combining the two types of research designs becomes its own shortcomings in this analysis. Third, strokes can be grouped into various types. But in this meta-analysis, only the ischemic stroke and hemorrhagic stroke types are discussed.

## CONCLUSION

From this meta-analysis, it can be concluded that smoking increases the risk of stroke in Asian people. This study found the risk of smokers to experience a hemorrhagic stroke is higher than ischemic stroke. Additional sources of literature and research searches with larger samples and more

detailed information are needed for further analysis.

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