

Supplemental Table 1 Baseline Characteristics of Patients with AIS Hospitalized in SUs and non-SUs

Variables	Total, n (%)	Hospitalized in SUs, Hospitalized in		ASD
	N=790,811	n (%)	non-SUs, n (%)	
		N=193,968 (24.5%)	N=596,843 (75.5%)	
Age, Mean (SE)	66.1(12.0)	66.3(12.1)	66.1(11.9)	1.7
Male	494,756 (62.6)	121,844 (62.8)	372,912 (62.5)	0.6
Arrival by EMS	82,859 (10.5)	25,431 (13.1)	57,428 (9.6)	11.1
Admission NIHSS score, median (IQR)*	3.0 (2.0–6.0)	3.0 (2.0–6.0)	3.0 (2.0–6.0)	9.7
0-3	347,950 (44.0)	84,605 (43.6)	263,345 (44.1)	1.0
4-14	251,270 (31.8)	68,263 (35.2)	183,007 (30.7)	9.6
≥15	34,051 (4.3)	10,868 (5.6)	23,183 (3.9)	8.0
Medical history				
Stroke/TIA	263,769 (33.4)	61,279 (31.6)	202,490 (33.9)	4.9
Hypertension	509,975 (64.5)	124,457 (64.2)	385,518 (64.6)	0.8
Diabetes mellitus	170,334 (21.5)	41,312 (21.3)	129,022 (21.6)	0.7
Dyslipidemia	61,111 (7.7)	13,579 (7.0)	47,532 (8.0)	3.8
CHD/previous MI	69,357 (8.8)	17,334 (8.9)	52,023 (8.7)	0.7
Atrial fibrillation	39,276 (5.0)	10,602 (5.5)	28,674 (4.8)	3.2
Carotid stenosis	10,288 (1.3)	2,727 (1.4)	7,561 (1.3)	0.9

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PVD	13,775 (1.7)	2,923 (1.5)	10,852 (1.8)	2.4
Heart failure	7,884 (1.0)	1,885 (1.0)	5,999 (1.0)	0.0
Dementia	3,743 (0.5)	979 (0.5)	2,764 (0.5)	0.0
Smoking	293,172 (37.1)	70,897 (36.6)	222,275 (37.2)	1.2
Alcoholism	185,420 (23.4)	46,751 (24.1)	138,669 (23.2)	2.1
Swallowing function				
Unknown	171,110 (21.6)	32,420 (16.7)	138,690 (23.2)	16.3
Normal	556,869 (70.4)	142,583 (73.5)	414,286 (69.4)	9.1
Dysphagia	62,832 (7.9)	18,965 (9.8)	43,867 (7.3)	8.9
Hospital complications				
CVD events	49,521 (6.3)	10,440 (5.4)	39,081 (6.5)	4.7
Epileptic seizure	4,017 (0.5)	1,111 (0.6)	2,906 (0.5)	1.4
Hydrocephaly	1,316 (0.2)	386 (0.2)	930 (0.2)	0.0
Atrial fibrillation	38,712 (4.9)	10,921 (5.6)	27,791 (4.7)	4.1
MI	3,028 (0.4)	727 (0.4)	2,301 (0.4)	0.0
GIB	6,438 (0.8)	1,912 (1.0)	4,526 (0.8)	2.1
UTI	9,502 (1.2)	2,514 (1.3)	6,988 (1.2)	0.9

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Cardiac or respiratory arrest	1,628 (0.2)	551 (0.3)	1,077 (0.2)	2.0
Discharge outcomes				
Length of stay, median (IQR)	11.0 (8.0–14.0)	11.0 (8.0–14.0)	11.0 (8.0–14.0)	3.0
In-hospital mortality	1,662 (0.2)	527 (0.3)	1,135 (0.2)	2.0
mRS score at discharge [†]				
0-2	270,649 (34.2)	64,045 (33.0)	206,604 (34.6)	3.4
≥3	119,908 (15.2)	33,865 (17.5)	86,043 (14.4)	8.5
Region				
Eastern	367,586 (46.5)	90,511 (46.7)	277,075 (46.4)	0.6
Central	258,162 (32.6)	51,377 (26.5)	206,785 (34.6)	17.7
Western	165,063 (20.9)	52,080 (26.8)	112,983 (18.9)	18.9
Hospital grade				
Secondary	307,090 (38.8)	63,597 (32.8)	243,493 (40.8)	16.6
Tertiary	483,721 (61.2)	130,371 (67.2)	353,350 (59.2)	16.6

Abbreviations: SUs: stroke units; SE: standard error; IQR: interquartile range; EMS: emergency medical services; NIHSS: National Institute of Health Stroke Scale; TIA: transient ischemic attack; CI: confidence interval; CHD: coronary heart disease; MI: myocardial infarction; PVD: peripheral vascular disease; CVD: cardiovascular disease; GIB: gastrointestinal bleeding; UTI: urinary tract infection; mRS: modified Rankin Scale

[†]The NIHSS score was missing in 157,540 (19.9%) cases.

†The mRS score at discharge was missing in 400,254 (50.6%) cases.