


A two-year longitudinal study of post-stroke mood disorders: dynamic changes in associated variables over the first six months of follow-up.

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[Robinson RG](#), [Starr LB](#), [Lipsey JR](#), [Rao K](#), [Price TR](#)

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## Abstract

We are prospectively studying a group of 103 stroke patients over the first 2 years after infarction to determine the variables which are associated with the development of depression. At both 3 and 6 months post-stroke, patients with left hemisphere infarcts showed a strong relationship between severity of depression and distance of the lesion on CT scan from the frontal pole. The strength of this association was unchanged from the immediate post-infarction period. In contrast, the correlation between degree of functional physical impairment and severity of depression steadily increased over the 6 month follow-up. The correlation between severity of depression and Mini-Mental score or between depression and social functioning score dropped between in-hospital and 3 months but then increased significantly between 3 and 6 months post-stroke. Age did not correlate with depression beyond the acute post-stroke period. Whether the increasing strength of the relationships between impairment and depression over the first 6 months post-stroke indicates that continued depression led to delayed recovery or whether continued severe impairments led to depression is not known, however, this issue will be addressed in further data evaluation from this prospective study.

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