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**Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand, Vol 96, No 9**

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**Identification of Stroke Mimics among Clinically Diagnosed Acute Strokes**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Stroke is a clinically syndrome of a sudden onset of neurological deficit in a vascular cause. Stroke mimics is the non-vascular disorders with stroke-like clinical symptoms. It is important to distinguish true stroke from mimics since treatment plan may differ.

**Objective:** To determine the incidence of the stroke mimics and identify their etiologies.

**Material and Method:** All non-contrast head CT of the patients with clinically diagnosed stroke who immediately received imaging upon arrival at the emergency department of the university hospital were retrospectively reviewed in 12-month period between January 1 and December 31, 2008. Medical records, laboratory results, MRI, and 6-month clinical follow-up records were reviewed for final diagnosis.

**Results:** Seven hundred four patients were included in this study, including 363 (51.5%) men and 341 (48.5%) women with range in age from 24 to 108 years. Amongst those, 417 (59.2%) were ischemic stroke, 80 (11.4%) were hemorrhagic stroke, 186 (26.4%) were stroke-mimics, and 21 (3%) were inconclusive. The etiologies among stroke-mimics were metabolic/intoxication (35, 18.8%), sepsis (28, 15.0%), seizure (21, 11.3%), syncope (20, 10.8%), subdural hemorrhage (14, 7.5%), vertigo (11, 6.0%), brain tumor (10, 5.3%), central nervous system infection (5, 2.7%), others (26, 14.0%), and unspecified (16, 8.6%).

**Conclusion:** Incidence rates and etiologies of the stroke mimics were similar to the western reports. However, the frequency of each mimic was not.

**Keywords:** Acute strokes, Ischemic stroke, Hemorrhagic stroke, Stroke mimics, Computed tomography

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