

□ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR □

High Iron Stores and Risk of Ischemic Stroke in Persons with Metabolic SyndromeLuca Mascitelli¹ and Francesca Pezzetta²

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To the Editor

Kawamoto and colleagues found that the presence of metabolic syndrome was associated with an increased risk of

ischemic stroke (1). However, they did not consider the potential role of elevated iron stores in this setting.

Increasing evidence suggests that serum ferritin, a good indicator of body iron stores, is positively associated with metabolic syndrome (2, 3). Furthermore, it has been recently documented in a Japanese population that serum ferritin is associated with visceral fat area and subcutaneous fat area (4).

Serum ferritin has been shown to be a significant predictor of carotid atherosclerosis progression (5) and it is associated with an increased risk of ischemic stroke (6).

Therefore, high iron stores might be considered as an adjunctive risk factor for the development of ischemic stroke in persons with metabolic syndrome.

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