Impact of Thrombophilia on Risk of Arterial Ischemic Stroke or Cerebral Sinovenous Thrombosis in Neonates and Children

A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies

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Background—The aim of this study was to estimate the impact of thrombophilia on risk of first childhood stroke through a meta-analysis of published observational studies.

Methods and Results—A systematic search of electronic databases (Medline via PubMed, EMBASE, OVID, Web of Science, The Cochrane Library) for studies published from 1970 to 2009 was conducted. Data on year of publication, study design, country of origin, number of patients/control subjects, ethnicity, stroke type (arterial ischemic stroke [AIS], cerebral venous sinus thrombosis [CSVT]) were abstracted. Publication bias indicator and heterogeneity across studies were evaluated, and summary odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated with fixed-effects or random-effects models. Twenty-two of 185 references met inclusion criteria. Thus, 1764 patients (arterial ischemic stroke [AIS], 1526; cerebral sinus venous thrombosis [CSVT], 238) and 2799 control subjects (neonate to 18 years of age) were enrolled. No significant heterogeneity was discerned across studies, and no publication bias was detected. A statistically significant association with first stroke was demonstrated for each thrombophilia trait evaluated, with no difference found between AIS and CSVT. Summary ORs (fixed-effects model) were as follows: antithrombin deficiency, 7.06 (95% CI, 2.44 to 22.42); protein C deficiency, 8.76 (95% CI, 4.53 to 16.96); protein S deficiency, 3.20 (95% CI, 1.22 to 8.40), factor V G1691A, 3.26 (95% CI, 2.59 to 4.10); factor II G20210A, 2.43 (95% CI, 1.67 to 3.51); MTHFR C677T (AIS), 1.58 (95% CI, 1.20 to 2.08); antiphospholipid antibodies (AIS), 6.95 (95% CI, 1.80 to 28.37).

Received October 2, 2009; accepted February 10, 2010.

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Circulation is available at http://circ.ahajournals.org

DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.109.913673

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The incidence of stroke in neonates and children (arterial ischemic stroke [AIS] or cerebral sinus venous thrombosis [CSVT]) is estimated to be between 2.6 and 6.4 per 100,000 per year, reflecting a trend toward a higher frequency in more current literature.1–3 Underlying conditions in children with symptomatic cerebrovascular accidents include congenital heart malformations, hemolytic anemias, and collagen vascular diseases, as well as some rare inborn metabolic disorders.4 In addition, risk factors include trauma and infectious diseases. Apart from acquired thrombophilic risk factors such as the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies,5,6 inherited thrombophilia, particularly antithrombin, protein C, and protein S deficiency, variants of coagulation factor V (G1691A) and factor II (G20210A), and elevated lipoprotein(a), have been found in small case series and case-control studies to be associated with AIS or CSVT in infants and children.7–52 Furthermore, an association of the thermolabile MTHFR C677T genotype with stroke is controversial in both adults and children.5355 In fact, the increased likelihood of having a blood clot in the vasculature is related to elevated homocysteine levels, and mutations in the MTHFR gene only exploit their effect by contributing to the elevated homocysteine plasma level. Because adequate folate levels essentially cancel out the impaired regulation of homocysteine induced by MTHFR mutations, not all people will develop high homocysteine levels.53–56

Methods

This systematic review was performed in accordance with the Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology and the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines.68,69

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Published studies of stroke in children <18 years of age from 1970 through June 2009 were evaluated for inclusion if the frequency of ≥1 thrombophilia trait was individually investigated in a given stroke cohort (descriptive analysis) and if the frequency of thrombophilia traits was compared between patients with AIS/CSVT and control subjects with no history of stroke in a given study (meta-analysis). Only pediatric stroke cases objectively confirmed by laboratory tests, performed and laboratory methods (including criteria for normal/abnormal results). Case reports and case series/studies in which <90% of cases were systematically screened for thrombophilia and studies with unclear laboratory/analytic methodology to differentiate between inherited and acquired deficiency states of protein C, protein S, or antithrombin were not included (except in instances when this distinction was subsequently clarified in personal communication with the responsible authors; only cases with inherited deficiency states were included in the analyses).

Search Strategy

A systematic search of publications listed in the electronic databases (Medline via PubMed, EMBASE, OVID, Web of Science, The Cochrane Library) from 1970 to June 2009 was conducted using the following key words in combination as both MeSH terms and text words: (“stroke” or “cerebral vein thrombosis” or “sinovenous thrombosis” or “sinus thrombosis” or “thromboembolism” or “anti-coagulation” or “anti-thrombotic therapy”) and (“perinatal” or “neonate” or “infant” or “child” or “childhood” or “adolescents” or “pediatric” or “pediatric” or “adult” and) and (“thrombophilia” or “prothrombotic” or “procoagulant” or “protein C” or “protein S” or “antithrombin” or “factor V” or “activated protein C resistance” or “prothrombin” or “factor II” or “lipoprotein(a)” or “antiphospholipid antibodies” or “lupus anticoagulants” or “anticardiolipin”). In addition, reference lists of journal articles identified through the aforementioned search were then manually searched to locate additional studies. The search strategy had no language restrictions. Citations were screened and classified into cohort/case-control, case series, or registry data by 2 independent group members (L.B. and C.H.v.O.).70 Those meeting the inclusion criteria were retained. The decision to include or exclude studies was hierarchical, initially based on the study title, followed by the abstract and finally the complete body text. In the event of conflicting opinions, resolution was achieved though discussion.

Data Extraction

To avoid possible double counting of patients included in >1 report of the same authors/working groups, the patient recruitment periods and catchment areas were evaluated, and authors were contacted for clarification. If the required data could not be located in the

Key Words: cerebrovascular disorders ■ meta-analysis ■ pediatrics ■ thrombophilia
published report, the corresponding author was contacted to provide the missing data of interest. Data extractions were checked for accuracy by multiple authors (L.B., G.G., R.J., S.H., F.J.K., G.K., C.H.v.O., L.R., and U.N.-G.).

### Missing Data

Studies in which symptomatic pediatric stroke patients were not screened for thrombophilia or studies in which the thrombophilia screening was <90% of cases or only in sporadic cases were not included in the present meta-analysis. For series in which the percentage of patients screened was not clear from the article, authors were asked for clarification.

### Statistical Analyses

Data analyses were performed with STATA version 9 update (College Station, Tex), StatsDirect version 2.6.6 update (Altrincham, UK; www.statsdirect.com), and Comprehensive Meta-Analysis version 2.2.046 (Biostat Inc, Englewood, NJ). Continuous data are presented as median (minimum to maximum) values. For meta-analysis, summary odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated from the effect estimates of the individual studies weighted by standard error using a fixed-effects model (weighting each estimate by its standard error via the Mantel and Haenszel method) or a random-effects model (estimating between-study variance in effect measures according to DerSimonian and Laird). The latter approach was used to control for heterogeneity according to Higgins et al. Data were pooled and ORs were calculated separately for AIS and CSVT because of their different pathophysiologies (AIS, high flow and pulsatile with platelet-rich thrombi; CSVT, low flow and nonpulsatile with fibrin-rich thrombi) and for age groups (perinatal/neonatal versus older children). It was prespecified that we would proceed to calculate an overall pooled OR in case of statistically overlapping results for the previous separate analyses. For both the factor V and factor II variants, AA and GA alleles (ie, statistically overlapping results for the previous separate analyses. For both the factor V and factor II variants, AA and GA alleles (ie, statistically overlapping results for the previous separate analyses.

### Results

#### Descriptive Analyses

From 185 potentially relevant citations ascertained from electronic databases and searches of reference lists, 22 cohort studies from 8 countries finally met the inclusion criteria for descriptive analysis (Figure 1 and Table Ia through Ic of the online-only Data Supplement).

Studies investigating thrombophilia at first episode of stroke are shown in Table Ia through Ic of the online-only Data Supplement. Ten of the 22 studies reported inherited deficiency states of protein C, protein S, or antithrombin. In these studies, 1031 patients with a first stroke onset and 1397 control children were investigated (Table Ia of the online-only Data Supplement).

Beginning in 1998, the factor V and factor II variants were systematically investigated in childhood stroke (22 studies; Table Ib of the online-only Data Supplement). In addition, studies reporting data on antiphospholipid antibodies/lupus anticoagulants (8 studies; 930 children versus 1096 control subjects) and combined thrombophilias (12 studies; 926 children versus 1416 control subjects) are summarized in Table Ic of the online-only Data Supplement; here, we have added data on elevated lipoprotein(a), a thrombogenic parameter that was investigated exclusively in a controlled design in German children with stroke.

### Meta-Analyses

In 22 of 185 studies, eligible data on first-episode stroke children and population-based control subjects were reported. Tables 1 (AIS), 2 (CSVT), and 3 (AIS and CSVT) summarize the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies/lupus anticoagulants and the genetic traits investigated, the number of studies and patients included in the meta-analysis, and summary ORs and 95% CIs under a fixed-effects or random-effects model. In addition, results of testing for heterogeneity and noncombinability are shown. Publication bias also was calculated when >4 studies were pooled. No significant heterogeneity, noncombinability, or publication bias was discerned across studies. Borderline-significant heterogeneity was found for protein S (first AIS) and combination of genetic traits (first CSVT). Random-effects estimates were provided for those sets of studies. Age group (perinatal/neonatal versus older children) did not significantly affect the OR, so only the pooled analysis is reported.

A statistically significant association with stroke was demonstrated for each thrombophilia trait evaluated in the entire patient cohort (and for combined genetic traits), with summary ORs ranging from 1.58 (95% CI, 1.20 to 2.08) for the MTHFR T677T genotype (available for patients with AIS only) to 9.31 (95% CI, 4.81 to 18.02) for protein C deficiency. For perinatal AIS, 6 studies were available. Summary ORs were as follows: factor V G1691A, 3.56 (95% CI, 2.29 to 5.53); and factor II G20210A, 2.02 (95% CI, 1.02 to 3.99).

Forest plots under fixed-effects models show that pediatric carriers of the factor V G1691A mutation (Figure 2A), the factor II G20210A variant (Figure 2B), and acquired antiphospholipid antibodies (Figure 2C, AIS only) had an increased risk of developing a first symptomatic stroke. As shown exemplarily for factor V G1691A carriers, the cumulative meta-analysis did not show any significant change over time of the mean risk estimate (Figure 3). Forest plots (random-effects model) for perinatal/neonatal AIS/CSVT are shown for factor V G1691A and factor II G20210A in Figure 1a and Ic of the online-only Data Supplement. Funnel plots (bias assessment) of effect size against standard error were explored for each parameter investigated and were broadly symmetrical, which was consistent with the conclusion that there was no major publication bias (As an example, data of bias assessment plots are published report, the corresponding author was contacted to provide the missing data of interest. Data extractions were checked for accuracy by multiple authors (L.B., G.G., R.J., S.H., F.J.K., G.K., C.H.v.O., L.R., and U.N.-G.).

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shown for protein C deficiency in Figure IIa of the online-only Data Supplement and the Factor V mutation in Figure IIb of the online-only Data Supplement. The absence of major publication bias was also underlined by the results of the linear regression method according to Harbord et al.73

### Sensitivity Analyses

The median sample size for the set of included studies was 42. We thus assessed the variation in OR estimates obtained by including in the analysis only the studies with more or less than 42 cases. Because 42 might generally be considered a

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**Table 1. Summary ORs (95% CIs; Meta-Analysis) Including Testing for Heterogeneity ($I^2$), Noncombinability, and Publication Bias for Thrombophilic Risk Factors Associated With a First AIS Onset in Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thrombophilic Traits (No. of Studies)</th>
<th>Patients/Control Subjects, n</th>
<th>OR/95% CI (Fixed-Effects or Random-Effects Model)</th>
<th>$I^2$, %; $P$</th>
<th>Bias Indicator (Harbord et al.73), $P$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquired risk factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS/LA (8)</td>
<td>930/1194</td>
<td>6.95/3.67–13.14 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.82</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic risk factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antithrombin deficiency (4)</td>
<td>639/684</td>
<td>3.29/0.70–15.48 (F)</td>
<td>15; 0.31</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein C deficiency (8)</td>
<td>844/1207</td>
<td>11.0/5.13–23.59 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.96</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein S deficiency (4)</td>
<td>574/572</td>
<td>1.49/0.32–6.92 (R)</td>
<td>61; 0.05</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipoprotein(a) (4)</td>
<td>616/578</td>
<td>6.53/4.46–9.55 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.85</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor V G1691A (17)</td>
<td>1014/2581</td>
<td>3.70/2.82–4.85 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.67</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor II G20210A (13)</td>
<td>1059/2278</td>
<td>2.60/1.66–4.08 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.46</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTHFR TT* (11)</td>
<td>777/1715</td>
<td>1.58/1.20–2.08 (F)</td>
<td>3.5; 0.40</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\geq$2 Genetic traits (9)</td>
<td>701/1265</td>
<td>18.75/6.49–54.14 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.59</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*T677T. APS/LA indicates antiphospholipid antibodies/lupus anticoagulants; F, fixed-effects model; R, random-effects model; and NC, not calculated.
small sample size, we also assessed the effect of including only studies with more or less than 100 cases. The results showed that the OR estimates for AIS/CSVT are robust (the changes are not significant) for any thrombophilia, factor II mutation, factor V G1691A, protein C, and protein S deficiencies. The OR for antiphospholipid antibodies/lupus anticoagulants was found to be slightly higher for studies with sample size >100 cases (7.17; 95% CI, 2.24 to 23.00). The OR for antithrombin was found to be lower in larger studies (OR for AIS and CSVT, 4.39; 95% CI, 1.11 to 17.34; OR for AIS, 2.69; 95% CI, 0.45 to 16.22; OR for CSVT, 8.89; 95% CI, 1.02 to 76.82). No significant effect of study sample size (cases and controls) was found in a meta-regression analysis for any of the thrombophilia markers.

Discussion

Stroke events, including AIS and CSVT, are far less common in the pediatric population than in adults and are often associated with underlying medical conditions.3,4 Bearing in mind that not all children with these underlying medical conditions will develop stroke, it appears that genetic risk factors contribute to the origin of first-episode childhood stroke. There have been recent systematic reviews on the role of thrombophilia in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and venous thrombosis.74,75 However, to the best of our knowledge and apart from data reported by Haywood and coworkers76 in 2005, this is one of the first comprehensive meta-analyses on observational studies investigating the association of genetic and acquired thrombophilia traits with stroke in children. In contrast to Haywood and coworkers, we have included in the statistical model only those studies that focused solely on childhood stroke (ie, exclusive of young adults14) and have referred to hospital- or population-based pediatric control subjects. In addition, cohorts reporting acquired deficiency states of antithrombin, protein C, or protein S were not ascertained.33 Similar to data from a recent systematic review and meta-analyses in children with venous thrombosis,75 each of the traits investigated shows a significant association with first onset of pediatric stroke. As shown exemplarily for factor V carriers, the results of cumulative meta-analysis showed that statistical significance was reached very early, indicating that a meta-analysis performed 5 to 10 years ago would have anticipated the results of all of the forthcoming studies for the association of factor V G1691A with AIS; similarly, cumulative analysis shows the robustness over time of the less precise estimates for CSVT. It is also noteworthy that the overall mean estimate of the risk associated with factor V G1691A increased for a while after the pioneer studies in the field and finally returned to a value very close to the initial value, as often happens when a set of confirmatory studies arise in a given field. This phenomenon is often cited to support the hypothesis that negative (or, in this case, less optimistic) studies need longer to get published. The highest ORs were found for combined genetic traits,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genetic Traits (No. of Studies)</th>
<th>Patients/Control Subjects, n</th>
<th>OR/95% CI (Fixed-Effects or Random-Effects Model)</th>
<th>I², %; P</th>
<th>Bias Indicator (Harbord et al73, P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genetic risk factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antithrombin deficiency (2)</td>
<td>187/469</td>
<td>18.41/3.25–104.29 (F)</td>
<td>19; 0.27</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein C deficiency (2)</td>
<td>1031/1468</td>
<td>6.30/1.56–25.40 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.90</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein S deficiency (2)</td>
<td>187/369</td>
<td>5.27/1.53–18.21 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.72</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor V G1691A (5)</td>
<td>1625/2842</td>
<td>2.74/1.73–4.34 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.62</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor II G20210A (5)</td>
<td>1409/2613</td>
<td>1.95/0.93–4.07 (F)</td>
<td>0; 0.82</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥2 Genetic traits (3)</td>
<td>926/1720</td>
<td>6.12/0.87–43.07 (R)</td>
<td>63.7; 0.25</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F indicates fixed-effects model; R, random-effects model; and NC, not calculated.

Table 3. Summary ORs (95% CIs; Meta-Analysis) Including Testing for Heterogeneity (I²), Noncombinability, and Publication Bias for Thrombophilic Risk Factors Associated With a First AIS/CSVT Onset in Children
deficiency of protein C, and the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies. In addition, elevated lipoprotein(a), a low-density lipoprotein particle linked to apolipoprotein(a), showed an increased OR of 6.5, a finding that is in line with recent meta-analyses in adult patients with arterial cardiovascular events.\textsuperscript{77,78} Furthermore, evidence is accumulating that elevated lipoprotein(a) resulting in inhibition of plasminogen activation is also a risk factor of venous thrombosis.\textsuperscript{79,80}

Perinatal AIS, defined as infarction occurring between 28 weeks’ gestation and 28 days of postnatal age,\textsuperscript{81} is a unique entity occurring in \approx 1 in 4000 to 5000 live births.\textsuperscript{82,83} The pathophysiology of perinatal stroke is complex and in many cases is likely to be multifactorial. It is now recognized that
risk factors may relate to both maternal and placental problems and to fetal and neonatal disorders. The role of genetic and acquired thrombophilia in the pathogenesis of perinatal AIS is controversial and not completely understood. Analysis of our results shows that for studies evaluating perinatal stroke only, thrombophilia was still a risk factor. There is a paucity of eligible studies with control subjects on neonatal perinatal AIS and CSVT, and the issue deserves further attention.

The present meta-analysis has several limitations. First, the included studies were conducted over different time periods; therefore, it is possible that diagnosis and treatment modalities and referral patterns may have changed over time. Second, most of the studies included in our meta-analysis were undertaken in white children; thus, it is unknown whether our findings can be extrapolated to other ethnic groups. It is well known that the allele frequencies for the factor V G1691A or factor II G20210A variants differ among various ethnic groups; for example, the factor V G1691A and factor II G20210A polymorphisms are rarely observed in blacks and Asians. In children with first-episode stroke, the homozygous MTHFR C677T mutation has been shown to independently increase the risk of stroke. However, because homocysteine was not always studied, the potential risks associated with elevated homocysteine could not be determined; this is another limitation of the present meta-analysis.
analysis. A clear warning has to be raised here to clinically test the patients for homocysteinemia but not for MTHFR mutation because it was clearly shown in adult patients that the former and not the latter identifies people at increased thrombotic risk. A fourth limitation is the possible presence of publication bias. Although formal testing did not show a publication bias, it cannot be completely ruled out, considering the rarity of the disease and the small number of studies available in the field of pediatric stroke. In the context of publication bias, we must mention here that data on lipoprotein(a) and AIS/CSVT are based on 4 different population-based studies, all of which share authorship with the senior author of this meta-analysis, so the data interpretation is restricted to the populations investigated. As noted above, newborns are particularly underrepresented in the present analysis. Thrombophilia screening and its interpretation are difficult in neonates and may therefore be postponed to later ages by the treating physicians with the increasing risk of patients being lost to follow-up. As a consequence, data obtained from this meta-analysis have to be interpreted with caution, especially for infants within the first year after birth. A further limitation is the missing data between thrombophilia and recurrent stroke. So far, only 4 cohort studies are available on this topic. In line with recurrence in children with venous thrombosis, Ganesan and coworkers found in 2006 that a positive association between thrombophilia and recurrent AIS was detected solely in primarily “healthy” stroke children with a significantly increased hazard ratio for the prothrombin G20210A variant (hazard ratio/OR, 7.9; 95% CI, 1.8 to 34.9) during the patient follow-up.

These limitations notwithstanding, the findings of the present meta-analysis indicate that thrombophilias serve as risk factors for first stroke. However, the impact of thrombophilias on outcome and recurrence risk needs to be further investigated. The clinical value, economic effectiveness, and psychological implications of thrombophilia testing in this setting have to be further elucidated before proceeding to large-scale clinical application.

Acknowledgments

We thank Frances Cowan (Department of Pediatrics, Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London, UK), Meredith Golomb (Department of Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis), and Vijea Ganesan (Neurosciences Unit, Institute of Child Health, University College, London, UK) for helpful discussions and manuscript editing. In addition, we thank Klaus Berger for his help in epidemiological discussions and Kathrin Gordon, Sarah Nixdorf, and Doris Kunkel (University Hospital of Münster, Germany) for technical support.

Sources of Funding

The study was supported by grants from the Förderverein “Schlaganfall und Thrombosen im Kindesalter e.V.”, Deutsche Schlaganfall-Hilfe, and Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Klinische Forschung (CRA01-09), University of Münster. These study supporters had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, or writing of the report.

Disclosures

None.

References


Thrombotic events in children, including stroke, are increasingly recognized. Despite the fact that most children with stroke have other underlying risk factors, thrombophilias appear to play a role. Prior studies evaluating the association of thrombophilia in pediatric first-episode stroke are limited by relatively small patient numbers. In this meta-analysis, the impact of the most common thrombophilias on initial arterial ischemic stroke or cerebral sinovenous thrombosis in neonates and children <18 years of age was investigated. Twenty-two cohort studies were included in the final analysis, with a total of 1764 patients with stroke patients and 2867 control subjects. Each of the evaluated thrombophilias was associated with an increased risk of arterial ischemic stroke or cerebral sinus venous thrombosis, with odds ratios ranging from 1.58 (95% confidence interval, 1.20 to 2.08) for patients homozygous for the MTHFR C677T genotype to 9.31 (95% confidence interval, 4.81 to 18.02) for patients with protein C deficiency. Patients with combined defects had the highest risk with an odds ratio of 11.86 (95% confidence interval, 5.93 to 23.73). This meta-analysis greatly improves the current understanding of the contribution of thrombophilia to first-episode stroke in children. The analysis is most limited by the fact that the vast majority of patients were white, and some of the tests were performed in only select cohorts, so the results may not be generalizable to all populations. The clinical utility of performing thrombophilia testing in neonates and children with stroke will be determined only after the impact of these thrombophilias on outcome, therapeutic management, and stroke recurrence has been further evaluated in longitudinal studies.
Impact of Thrombophilia on Risk of Arterial Ischemic Stroke or Cerebral Sinovenous Thrombosis in Neonates and Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies


_Circulation._ 2010;121:1838-1847; originally published online April 12, 2010; doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.109.913673

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Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

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**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

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<th>Controls tested</th>
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<th>Antithrombin deficiency (controls)</th>
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* Including perinatal AIS patients reported by Günter et al. [ref. 11], and children with porencephaly [ref. 27 Debus et al.]
# control cohort of 112 subjects only counted once: not counted subjects in brackets [ ].

Table 1b (suppl.): Summary of studies investigating the prevalence of factor V G1691A, the prothrombin G20210A, and MTHFR in children with symptomatic AIS/CSVT

<table>
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<th>Author Year</th>
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<th>Type of AIS/CSVT</th>
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<th>Patients tested</th>
<th>Controls tested</th>
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<th>Factor V 1691 GA (controls)</th>
<th>Factor II 20210 GA &amp; AA (patients)</th>
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<th>MTHFR (patients)</th>
<th>MTHFR (controls)</th>
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* Including perinatal AIS patients reported by Günter et al. [ref.11], and children with porencephaly [ ref. 27: Debus et al.]

# control cohorts only counted once: not included data in brackets [ ].
Table 1c (suppl.): Summary of studies investigating the prevalence of Lp(a), APS/LA, and two or more defects in children with symptomatic AIS/CSVT

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<td>cohort (Turkey)</td>
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<td>10 mo-18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>cohort (Germany)</td>
<td>AIS</td>
<td>0-28 days</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>182 [ref. 11]</td>
<td>45/148</td>
<td>10/182</td>
<td>19/215</td>
<td>0/182</td>
<td>4/215</td>
<td>1/182</td>
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<td>cohort</td>
<td>AIS</td>
<td>1.5-15</td>
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<td>Age</td>
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<td>Proband</td>
<td>Random</td>
<td>Proportion Carriers [%]</td>
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<td>Bonduel 2006#11</td>
<td>cohort (Argentina)</td>
<td>AIS</td>
<td>2 mo - 18</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>5/112</td>
<td>1/102</td>
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<td>10[182]</td>
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<td>AIS</td>
<td>0-18</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>[112 : ref.10]</td>
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<td>6/112</td>
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<td>1m - 18</td>
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<td>CSVT</td>
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<td>[102]</td>
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<td>1/[102]</td>
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<td>1673</td>
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<td>57/930</td>
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<td><strong>proportion in carriers [%]</strong></td>
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</table>

* Including perinatal AIS patients reported by Günter et al. [ref. 11], and children with porencephaly [ ref. Debus et al.]

** no controls for protein C, S or antithrombin, only for DNA samples

# control cohorts only counted once: not included data in brackets [ ].
Factor V G1691A in children with perinatal AIS or CSVT onset

Odds ratio meta-analysis plot [random effects]

- Zenz 1998: 0.19 (0.00, 10.26)
- Kenet 2000: 5.94 (1.60, 26.92)
- Kurnik 2003: 3.01 (1.39, 7.06)
- Debus 2004: 6.00 (1.83, 25.34)
- Miller 2006: 1.60 (0.29, 5.99)
- Simchen 2009: 4.23 (1.27, 15.09)

Combined [random]: 3.59 (2.27, 5.66)
Factor II G20210A in children with perinatal AIS or CSVT onset

Odds ratio meta-analysis plot [random effects]

- Zenz 1998 : 0.89 (0.00, 315.55)
- Kenet 2000 : 1.37 (0.11, 12.28)
- Kurnik 2003 : 2.31 (0.54, 13.67)
- Debus 2004 : 2.06 (0.28, 23.28)
- Miller 2006 : 2.81 (0.46, 12.12)
- Simchen 2009 : 1.64 (0.23, 10.09)

Combined (random): 2.05 (1.04, 4.04)
Figure 2a

protein C-deficiency & AIS/CSVT onset:
Bias assessment plot

Log(Odds ratio)

Standard error
Figure 2b

Bias assessment plot

FV G1691A & AIS/CSV onset:
**Figure 1a:**
The Forest plot shows odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for observational studies investigating the influence of the factor V G1691A mutation on the onset of symptomatic perinatal AIS/CSVT in children. The study author and year of publication are indicated on the y-axis. The box for each study is proportional to the inverse of variance; horizontal lines show the 95% CI of the odds ratios. The pooled estimate is based on a random effects model shown by a vertical line and diamond (95% CI). Studies are ordered in descending order by year of publication. Studies with patients/controls counted as “zero” are not depicted.

**Figure 1b:**
The Forest plot shows odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for observational studies investigating the influence of the factor II G20210A variant on the onset of symptomatic perinatal AIS/CSVT in children. The study author and year of publication are indicated on the y-axis. The box for each study is proportional to the inverse of variance; horizontal lines show the 95% CI of the odds ratios. The pooled estimate is based on a random effects model shown by a vertical line and diamond (95% CI). Studies are ordered in descending order by year of publication. Studies with patients/controls counted as “zero” are not depicted.

**Figure 2**
Figure 2a (protein C deficiency) and 2b (factor V G1691A) show symmetrical funnel (bias assessment) plots as indicators of absence of publication bias. In these scatter plots the estimated effects (odds ratios) from the individual studies are grouped on the horizontal axis around the summary estimate (inner vertical line) and the standard error of the outcome effect (reflecting the study size) are placed on the vertical axis. Diagonal lines show the expected 95% confidence intervals around the estimate. Odds ratios are plotted on a logarithmic scale to ensure that effects of the same magnitude but opposite directions are equidistant from 1 (corresponding to no effect).
References


