

# Accepted Manuscript

Strokes, cholesterol and statins: When mortality is an endpoint

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PII: S0021-9150(18)30220-X

DOI: [10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.04.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.04.035)

Reference: ATH 15488

To appear in: *Atherosclerosis*

Received Date: 18 April 2018

Accepted Date: 27 April 2018

Please cite this article as: Vos E, Biron P, Strokes, cholesterol and statins: When mortality is an endpoint, *Atherosclerosis* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.04.035.

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**Strokes, cholesterol and statins: When mortality is an endpoint**Eddie Vos\*<sup>1</sup>, Pierre Biron<sup>2</sup>

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Keywords: cholesterol; mortality; all-cause mortality; statin, population study

*To the Editor,*

The Yi et al. stroke mortality study, with 5.2 million person-years of observation in a representative Korean population cohort with a single baseline total cholesterol (TC) measurement, highlights several important issues (1). First, the authors note the fact that cholesterol lowering “particularly by statins” does not lower stroke mortality in randomized trials. Second, the fact that 53% of stroke deaths were from hemorrhagic strokes, far surpassing its incidence of about 10-20% in all strokes in many countries (1), and that are mainly nonfatal ischemic strokes. The relative lethality of hemorrhagic strokes is not surprising and its significant association with low TC (</~170 mg/dL, as found) is worrying in regard to statin users, of whom there was an unknown number in this cohort.

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