

Historic Study Shows New Option For Patients At Risk For Second Stroke

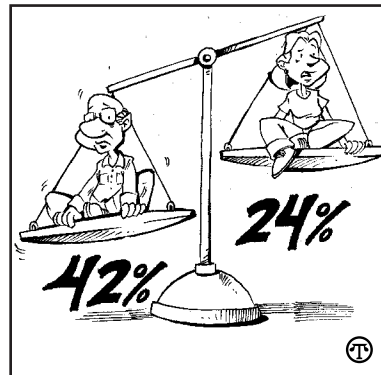
(NAPSA)—Each year 50 million people worldwide suffer life-threatening strokes, according to the National Stroke Association (NSA). A new study called PROGRESS (Perindopril pROtection aGainst REcurrent Stroke Study) has shown that taking a high-blood pressure medicine called ACEON® Tablets and a diuretic could prevent over 500,000 worldwide strokes per year.

The PROGRESS trial found that stroke survivors who took ACEON® Tablets and a diuretic had 50 percent less risk for a second stroke. There was also a 50 percent reduction in other serious stroke-related ailments, including dementia, which is the loss of cognitive function (such as memory or thought process).

ACEON® Tablets is currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat high blood pressure. PROGRESS also showed that even people with normal blood pressure who are at risk for a second stroke would benefit from this therapy.

“To suffer a stroke is difficult at best, to suffer a second stroke is devastating. The PROGRESS study provides groundbreaking hope for the thousands of stroke survivors who are at risk for having another stroke,” said Patty Shwayder, NSA executive director/CEO. “National Stroke Association believes that the American public needs to know this information and work with their health care providers to do all they can to prevent strokes.”

According to the NSA, secondary strokes are fatal in 25 per-



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cent of cases and often result in greater disability. Studies show that within five years of a stroke, 24 percent of women and 42 percent of men will experience another stroke.

“For the thousands of stroke survivors facing another devastating stroke, the results of this trial give us another weapon in the fight against stroke-related disabilities and deaths,” said Dr. Thomas Brott, professor of neurology at the Mayo Medical School and vice chairman of National Stroke Association.

Based in Englewood, Colo., National Stroke Association (NSA) is a leading, independent national non-profit organization devoting 100 percent of its efforts and resources to stroke survivors and their families. For more information on stroke or any of NSA's programs, contact National Stroke Association at 1-800-STROKES (800-767-6537) or visit www.stroke.org.