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Initiation of antidepressant medication and risk of incident stroke: Using the Adult Changes in Thought cohort to address time-varying confounding

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Abstract

Purpose: Depression strongly predicts stroke incidence, suggesting that treating depression may reduce stroke risk. Antidepressant medications, however, may increase stroke risk via direct pathways. Prior evidence on antidepressant medication and stroke incidence is mixed. We evaluated associations between antidepressant use and incident stroke.

Methods: For 2,302 Adult Changes in Thought cohort participants with no stroke at study entry, we characterized antidepressant use from pharmacy records, biennial depressive symptoms with a

10-item Centers for Epidemiologic Study- Depression (CES-D) scale, and incident strokes from ICD codes. We used discrete-time survival models with inverse probability weighting to compare stroke risk associated with filling antidepressant prescriptions; and by medication category: tricyclics (TCAs), selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), or other.

Results: Over an average 8.4-year follow-up, 441 incident strokes occurred. Filling antidepressant medications 3+ times versus 0–2 times predicted 35% increased odds of stroke (OR=1.35; 95% CI: 0.98, 1.66). Use of TCAs was associated with stroke onset (OR per 10 fills=1.28; CI: 1.04, 1.57), but use of SSRIs (OR=0.98; CI: 0.80, 1.20) or other antidepressants (OR=0.99; CI: 0.67, 1.45) was not.

Conclusions: Although patients who received antidepressant medication were at higher risk of stroke, this association appeared specific to TCA prescriptions.

Keywords

Antidepressant medication; Stroke; Depression; Pharmacoepidemiology; Confounding by indication

Introduction:

Depression in older adults is common and often undertreated (1). Clinical depression and depressive symptoms strongly predict incidence of stroke (2, 3), but it is not clear whether treating depressive symptoms would reduce stroke risk. Depression may influence stroke incidence via deleterious health behaviors or stress-related mechanisms (4, 5), but several prior studies reported that antidepressant medication use is associated with higher stroke incidence (2, 6–9). The association between antidepressant use and stroke has been observed for several antidepressant classes, including SSRIs, TCAs, and other antidepressants, but evidence has been inconsistent (6, 10, 11). Elevated stroke risk among antidepressant users observed in prior studies may reflect the most severely depressed patients' increased likelihood of receiving antidepressant medications, rather than a harmful effect of the antidepressants themselves, i.e., confounding by indication (12). Teasing apart relationships between depression severity, antidepressant medication use, and stroke risk is important for clinical decision making, especially in older adults who are at higher overall risk of stroke.

Addressing this question is challenging because depression severity is potentially both a confounder and a mediator of the relationship between antidepressant use and depressive symptoms (figure 1). Few data sets include both detailed history of antidepressant use and continuous measures of symptom severity; even when data are available, analytic methods to handle time-varying confounding are necessary (13, 14). We used inverse probability weighting to estimate Marginal Structural Models assessing the impact of antidepressant medication use on stroke risk in a cohort of older adults with linked information from surveys and pharmacy records.

Methods:

Sample

The Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) cohort (15, 16) enrolled 3,392 cognitively intact, community dwelling adults 65 years or older in two enrollment phases (n=2,581 in 1994–1996, n=811 in 2000–2003), from a population-based integrated health care delivery system in King County, Washington (Group Health, now Kaiser Permanente Washington (KPW)). ACT initiated ongoing enrollments of 120–180 people per year in 2005. After obtaining informed consent, participants' demographic characteristics, medical history, and functional status were assessed using in-person biennial interviews. Each participant's study information was linked to KPW medical records and pharmacy files. For the current analyses, among 4,131 consenting ACT participants with visits from inception (February 24, 1994) through data freeze (September 30, 2012), we excluded anyone with a baseline stroke (diagnosis or self-report) or self-reported transient ischemic attack (n=426), and individuals who enrolled but had no follow-up (n= 40), leaving 3,665 eligible participants. We further excluded any participants with a history of antidepressant medication from 1977 (the inception of electronic pharmacy records in KPW) to enrollment (n=1,375). Our final analytic sample included 2,290 individuals followed until first stroke, death, or end of administrative follow-up.

Measures

Our outcome was first incident stroke, identified by ICD-9 codes included in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Chronic Condition Data Warehouse algorithm (430, 431, 433.01, 433.11, 433.21, 433.31, 433.81, 433.91, 434.00, 434.01, 434.10, 434.11, 434.90, 434.91, 435.0, 435.1, 435.3, 435.8, 435.9, 436, 997.02) extracted from inpatient and outpatient medical records. If the occasion with the putative stroke included any ICD codes associated with head injury (800 to 804.9 inclusive or 850 to 854.1 inclusive), or if the principal diagnosis for the billing occasion was V57.xx (rehabilitation services), then the occasion was not considered a stroke, even if other ICD codes would have qualified as a stroke (these include events such as traumatic brain injury). If the diagnosis was based on outpatient services, we required two stroke-related records within 12 months of each other to qualify the event as a stroke (17–19).

Our primary exposure, antidepressant medication use, including date of initiation and number of prescription fills, was extracted from KPW pharmacy records. Medications were categorized as any antidepressant, SSRI, TCA, or other antidepressant (see Appendix 1 for detailed medication listing). To avoid bias induced by individuals stopping antidepressants due to side effects or health concerns, our primary analyses focused on antidepressant initiation; this effectively categorized individuals as exposed to antidepressants, or to a type of antidepressant, for all time periods *after* their first prescription fill, even though many would have ceased using the medication.

We considered several alternative approaches to coding antidepressant medications to confirm results were robust. We created a time-varying indicator for having filled 3 or more prescriptions for primary analyses. We conducted sensitivity analyses in which we enforced

a 1-month lag between the antidepressant use and incident stroke, by excluding all strokes that occurred in the same month that antidepressant medication was initiated. Anticipating a potential dose-response association between duration of antidepressant medication use and stroke risk, we also considered a time-varying linear term for number of prescriptions filled (effects expressed in units of 10 prescription fills). All exposures were coded to use only information on prescriptions to date to predict stroke incidence, i.e., no information on future prescriptions was used to predict past strokes.

All models were adjusted for time-constant covariates: sex, years of education, non-white race/ethnicity, and age in years at baseline. We used inverse probability weighting (detailed below) to account for a set of covariates that were updated at each assessment wave. These variables were selected because they were plausible predictors of both initiation of antidepressants and stroke risk. These variables were extracted from medical records or survey responses. Depressive symptom severity was assessed with the continuous score on a 10-item Centers for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression (CES-D) scale(20). Stroke risk was assessed with the components of the Framingham Stroke Risk Score, including: type II diabetes mellitus diagnosis, current smoking, systolic blood pressure, diagnoses of heart disease, atrial fibrillation, and left ventricular hypertrophy (21). Additional time-updated covariates included: marital status (married vs all other), self-rated health (5 point scale from excellent to poor), limitations in Activities of Daily Living (count of self-reported limitations in 6 activities), self-report of exercise 15+ minutes 3 times per week or more, cognitive function based on the Cognitive Abilities Screening Instrument (22) (CASI; scored as in (23)), and body mass index (measured at clinic visits and self-reported at intervening assessments). We have monthly data on exposures and outcome, but many covariates were assessed only at biennial assessment waves; we carried forward the most recent past covariate values.

Statistical analysis:

Marginal structural models were estimated by applying information from a model for the probability of treatment (antidepressant use) to an outcome model. We first evaluated the association of covariates, including depressive symptoms and other stroke risk factors, with the probability of initiating antidepressant medication use. These models were estimated defining each month since study entry as a time interval and estimating odds of initiating antidepressants in that interval, censoring individuals after first antidepressant initiation or at end of follow-up (13). We focus on the exposure of ever having initiated antidepressant medication, so respondents were considered exposed in all months after their first prescription fill (and the corresponding probability of subsequent exposures was 1 by definition, since nobody who once initiated can ever reverse that status). We adopted a similar approach to account for selective attrition from the sample (estimating the probability the respondent remained in the sample), and the final weights were the product of confounding weights and attrition weights. We used stabilized weights, with the numerator equal to the estimated probability of receiving the treatment s/he received given time-constant covariates and the denominator estimated additionally including time-varying covariates (24).

We then estimated the outcome model, which was a discrete-time survival model for incident stroke with each outcome interval (i.e., each month during which a stroke might occur) reweighted based on the inverse of the probability the individual received the treatment he or she actually received in the prior month. Outcome models were estimated using a logit link in a weighted generalized linear regression model with sandwich variance estimators, in each month of observation and censoring after first recorded stroke. This model included a cubic spline to account for time since enrollment. Because stroke is rare, the logit model approximates a hazard. All time-constant variables used to estimate the numerators of the stabilized weights were included in the regression models.

For modeling specific antidepressant class, the ideal model would reweight based on the probability of using the specific antidepressant, but these models did not converge, so we could only incorporate weights for use of any antidepressant.

We conducted several secondary analyses to assess the robustness of our findings. We estimated models restricting to individuals who ever had a depression diagnosis. Another set of models specified exposure as a count of prescriptions filled (in units of 10) and used this count to predict stroke in the overall sample and in analyses restricted to only those individuals with at least one antidepressant prescription fill. This model imposes the assumption that each increment of 10 refills is associated with a similar increase in stroke hazard. To rule out potential confounding due to individuals taking antidepressants for pain-related diagnoses, we repeated analyses excluding time at risk which accrued after any diagnosis related to pain (ICD codes: 307.81, 339.10–339.12, 339.42, 339.44, 339.89, 346.0–346.99, 355.9, 356.9, 729.2, 784.0). To evaluate the potential for bias due to the secular trend in the popularity of SSRIs, we tested whether estimated effects of antidepressant use differed before and after the year 2000.

To facilitate comparison with previous research (2, 6–9), we also estimated conventional Cox proportional hazards models with or without adjustment for time-varying confounders, in which we did not apply weights (Table 3). The proportional hazards assumption was confirmed for these models.

Results

Over an average of 8.4 years of follow-up, 441 incident first strokes were recorded (stroke rate =2.2 per 100 person-years). At least one antidepressant prescription was filled during the follow-up period by 30% of the sample (Table 1). Predictors of initiation of antidepressant use included depressive symptoms (OR per additional depressive symptom=1.07; 95% CI:1.05, 1.10), female sex, lower education, worse self-reported health, more ADL limitations, and worse cognitive function (Table 2).

Stroke incidence was non-significantly elevated in participants who initiated any antidepressant medication (OR=1.23; 95% CI: 0.95, 1.62; Table 3), and those who filled 3 or more prescriptions (OR=1.35; 95% CI: 0.98, 1.86). The odds of stroke incidence were estimated to increase by 8% per ten prescription fills (OR=1.08; 95% CI: 0.93, 1.26), with CIs that included the null; results were identical in the full sample or when restricting to

those with at least one prescription fill. Risk was significantly elevated when restricting to individuals who had a diagnosis of depression at some point during follow-up (OR=1.84; 95% CI: 1.08, 3.14).

Focusing on the class of antidepressant, TCA use was significantly associated with stroke (OR=1.28; 95% CI: 1.04, 1.57). Associations between stroke and SSRI use (OR=0.98; 95% CI: 0.80, 1.20) or other antidepressants (HR=0.99; 95% CI: 0.67, 1.45) were null.

We found little evidence that the associations differed in more recent periods of follow-up, with non-significant albeit positive (larger associations in later years) interactions of an indicator of follow-up after January 1, 2000 with both SSRI use (interaction $b=.35$, $p=0.56$) and TCA use (interaction $b=1.27$, $p=0.08$). When excluding risk periods after pain-related diagnoses, results were similar (TCA HR per ten refills=1.36; 95% CI: 1.10, 1.70; SSRI HR per ten refills=1.01; 95% CI: 0.81, 1.25; other anti-depressant HR per ten refills=1.06; 95% CI: 0.67, 1.69).

Discussion

A major threat to validity of prior research on antidepressant use and stroke relates to the potential for unmeasured confounding, i.e., whether established risk factors for stroke are also associated with antidepressant use. In our analysis, we confirmed this to be the case. This is an important concern and should inform interpretation of research on this topic conducted based on medical records, when detailed information on depressive symptoms and other stroke risk factors are not available. After accounting for these risk factors, including time-updated self-reported depressive symptoms, antidepressant use was associated with moderate increases in stroke risk, although the CIs were wide and included the null. When examining class of antidepressant medications, risk was significantly elevated only for TCAs, whereas risk associated with SSRIs was null. The absolute impact of the risk associated with TCA use would depend on the underlying incidence rate of stroke for each patient, but given an absolute stroke rate of 2.2 per 100 person years, an elevated risk of 28% would indicate 0.6 extra strokes per 100 person-years.

Our findings confirm the importance of accounting for depressive symptoms and other self-reported stroke risk factors when modeling associations of antidepressants with stroke risk. Depression and elevated depressive symptoms are robustly linked to stroke incidence, with meta-analyses suggesting a 34–45% increase in stroke hazard (2, 3). Depressed individuals are more likely to use antidepressant medications, with a 60% elevation a plausible lower bound (approximately as predicted by our models of antidepressant use assuming depressed people have a 7 point higher CES-D score than non-depressed). If depressed individuals also have a 40% elevation in stroke risk, this implies that simply due to confounding by indication, we would expect antidepressant users to have approximately a 24% higher risk of stroke than non-users in analyses that did not account for symptoms. The actual bias is probably larger because factors such as cognitive functioning, which strongly predict stroke (25–27), were also associated with initiating antidepressants, independently of CES-D score. Self-reported risk factors, such as self-rated health and ADL limitations, rather than conditions associated with diagnosis codes, were the most salient predictors of

antidepressant initiation. Such self-reported variables are rarely available in analyses based on administrative records.

Much prior work restricts analyses to individuals with a diagnosis of depression in order to reduce confounding by indication, but even among individuals with depression, severity of depression predicts initiation of and type of antidepressants. Although non-linear patterns may prevail for subgroups, in the ACT cohort, we found that each one point higher CES-D score was associated with a 5% higher odds of initiating antidepressant medication among individuals who ever received a diagnosis of depression. Thus, even when restricting to people who received a depression diagnosis, symptom severity may have confounded the association between antidepressant medication use and stroke risk. In analyses restricted to study participants with a diagnosis of major depression, the estimated effect of antidepressant use on stroke was more adverse than when estimated among the overall ACT sample. This suggests that, surprisingly, restricting to individuals with depression may exacerbate confounding of the association between antidepressant use and risk of stroke. Antidepressant use in the absence of diagnosed depression appears common in the United States (28) and elsewhere (29, 30). Patients who choose not to use antidepressant medication despite a diagnosis of major depression may be especially health-conscious or pursue other strategies to manage depression symptoms that have health benefits (e.g., increased physical activity). This may exacerbate the extent of confounding in analyses restricted to individuals with a diagnosis of depression.

Prior findings on the associations between antidepressant use and stroke risk are inconsistent, with the bulk of the evidence suggesting elevated stroke risk is associated with antidepressant use. A 2014 meta-analysis of studies of SSRI use and incident stroke identified only four prior cohort studies, with a pooled adjusted odds ratio of 2.12 (95 % CI 1.25–3.61)(8). Few prior studies incorporate control for confounding by indication: among those four, only two included any control for depression severity (6, 7), and an additional more recent cohort study included control for a binary indicator of depressive symptoms(31). Combining our effect estimate of 0.98 with these three prior cohort studies gives an inverse-variance weighted effect estimate of 1.15 (95% CI: 1.02, 1.29) for the effect of SSRIs on risk for stroke. Thus, a best estimate incorporating both our findings and results from the handful of previous studies addressing confounding by indication is a small increase in stroke risk, although analyses that do not include control for a continuous symptom severity measure may have additional residual confounding. More evidence to provide greater precision and explain why effect estimates differ between cohorts would be valuable.

Prior evidence on TCAs and stroke is also inconsistent. Some studies suggest TCA users are at higher risk of stroke than either non-users or SSRI users (11), while others report TCA use has no association with stroke risk (7). Inconsistent findings may partially reflect differences in practice patterns such that TCAs or SSRIs are systematically prescribed to individuals with more severe depression. Our results suggest a modest elevation in risk associated with TCA use.

The impact of antidepressants on stroke risk is of particular import given recent interest in prescribing SSRIs to foster post-stroke neurologic reorganization even in non-depressed stroke survivors(32–35). Although we focus on first strokes, the mechanism via which antidepressants influence first stroke risk is likely relevant to recurrent stroke. The potential impact on recurrent stroke risk is important to evaluate if we are moving towards universal antidepressant treatment for stroke survivors, but will require a much larger sample to evaluate appropriately.

The ACT cohort is too small to support separate analyses of ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. Prior work links SSRIs to hemorrhagic events, but effect sizes are so small they would likely be undetectable in ACT (36). There is also limited evidence on the potential for depressive symptoms to confound associations between SSRI and hemorrhagic stroke (2). Our results are from a highly-educated and predominantly white sample, creating the potential for selection bias. We know of no compelling evidence that biological effects of antidepressants on stroke risk differ by socioeconomic factors or race, but there is little research on effects of antidepressants in racial/ethnic minorities (37). Our interpretation relies on the assumption of no unmeasured confounding, as in any observational study. Our control variables represent an unusually comprehensive list compared to other studies, but this assumption is unverifiable. One possible explanation for the elevated stroke risk associated with TCA use is that the CES-D does not adequately capture the depression severity that influences likelihood of TCA initiation. Because TCAs are often used as 2nd line therapy for resistant depression, suggesting symptoms may be especially severe or persistent in TCA users, the possibility that CES-D does not capture depression severity that influences TCA initiation is a particular concern for estimates of the effects of TCA use. Similarly, the most recent CES-D score available from ACT study visits may not adequately capture the features of depression that predict stroke (38). However, the association between the unobserved aspect of depression severity and likelihood of TCA use would have to be quite substantial to account for the observed association (39). Because our primary analyses were based on treatment initiation, rather than treatment persistence, our effect estimates may be attenuated. There also may be some imprecision because we were unable to use optimal weights for models involving the type of antidepressant. This model thus accounts for confounding in the decision to initiate antidepressants, but cannot account for potential additional unmeasured confounders of which medication type is selected. Regardless, our findings would ideally be confirmed using evidence from randomized trials.

Despite these limitations, our analyses make important advances in this important research area. To our knowledge, no prior study has implemented statistical analyses appropriate to control for confounding variables that may partially mediate the effects of antidepressants, as is the case with depressive symptoms (13, 14). The design of ACT, integrating cohort-based assessments with administrative information from a large health care provider, provides an unusually rich set of covariates to control for confounding by indication.

The current findings from our study and others suggest little adverse effect of SSRIs on incident stroke risk. The evidence for TCAs is more worrisome, suggesting moderate excess stroke risk associated with using TCAs, although estimates for TCAs may also be more vulnerable to confounding, and TCAs, unlike SSRIs, are not currently recommended as

post-stroke prophylaxis. The results support the possibility of exploring non-pharmaceutical options to address depressive symptoms, although with persistent depression, the quality of life benefits of antidepressant pharmacotherapy may outweigh any adverse impacts on stroke risk. The specific findings that SSRIs had little associated stroke risk support the predominance of SSRIs as the preferred pharmaceutical therapy for depression (1, 40, 41).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Abbreviations:

ACT	Adult Changes in Thought
CI	Confidence Interval
CES-D	Centers for Epidemiologic Study- Depression
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
MSM	Marginal Structural Model
OR	Odds Ratio
TCA	Tricyclic Antidepressant
SSRI	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor

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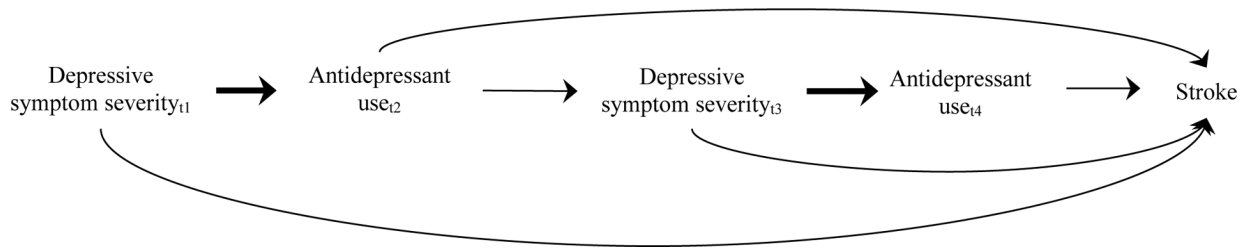


Figure 1. Depressive symptom severity as a time-varying confounder that concurrently partially mediates the relationship between antidepressant use and stroke.

Antidepressant use at time 2 (t_2) is both influenced by previous depressive symptom severity (t_1) and influences future depressive symptom severity (t_3). Prior evidence indicates that depressive symptoms directly influence stroke risk, so depressive symptom severity both confounds and is a partial mediator for the effects of antidepressants. Weighting models indicate that each 1-point increment in depressive symptom severity (paths in bold in the figure) is associated with a 7% increase in odds of initiating antidepressants.

Table 1.

Description of Adult Changes in Thought Cohort

	Full cohort		No antidepressant use		Ever used an antidepressant		Ever used a Tricyclic ^d		Ever used an SSRI ^a	
	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD
Total	2290	100%	1600	100%	690	100%	479	100%	378	100%
Incident stroke cases	441	19%	313	20%	128	19%	95	20%	80	21%
Any antidepressant fills	690	30%	0	0%	690	100%	479	100%	378	100%
At least 3 antidepressant fills	444	19%	0	0%	444	64%	296	62%	297	79%
Number of antidepressant fills	4.0	12.3	0	0	13.1	19.6	12.6	19.8	18.5	22.6
Number of tricyclic fills	1.4	6.2	0	0	4.7	10.6	6.7	12.2	3.6	8.8
Number of SSRI fills	2.2	9.0	0	0	7.3	15.2	5.0	12.8	13.4	18.5
Number of other fills	0.3	3.0	0	0	1.1	5.3	0.9	4.9	1.5	6.6
Ever diagnosed with depression	533	23%	173	11%	360	52%	195	41%	297	79%
Years of follow-up	8.4	5.5	7.3	5.3	10.9	5.1	10.8	5.2	11.0	4.9
Baseline time-constant covariates										
Male	1105	48%	838	52%	267	39%	190	40%	135	36%
Years of education	14.8	3.2	15.0	3.2	14.2	3.1	14.1	3.2	14.0	3.0
Race other than white	194	8%	140	9%	54	8%	40	8%	26	7%
Baseline values of time-varying covariates										
Age	74.3	6.3	74.0	6.3	74.9	6.2	74.6	6.2	75.2	5.9
CES-D score (0–30)	2.9	3.3	2.6	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7
Framingham Stroke risk Score	8.6	7.4	8.8	7.6	8.4	7.1	8.2	6.7	8.4	7.0
Diabetes	205	9%	142	9%	63	9%	44	9%	32	7%
Smoking (current vs all other)	97	4%	59	4%	38	6%	25	5%	21	6%
Hypertension	844	37%	588	37%	256	37%	169	35%	157	42%
Average systolic blood pressure	140	21	140	21	141	21	141	21	143	21
Heart disease	374	16%	257	16%	117	17%	80	17%	66	18%
Atrial fibrillation	169	7%	132	8%	37	5%	26	5%	19	5%
Left ventricular hypertrophy	52	2%	45	3%	7	1%	4	1%	4	1%
Married or living as married	1368	60%	973	61%	395	57%	278	58%	220	58%
Self-rated health (1 excellent - 5 poor)	2.4	0.9	2.3	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.9

	Full cohort		No antidepressant use		Ever used an antidepressant		Ever used a Tricyclic ^a		Ever used an SSRI ^d	
	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD	mean/N	%/SD
Count of ADL limitations (0-6)	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.6
Cerebrovascular composite score (ever stroke, transient ischemic attack, or carotid endarterectomy)	13	0%	10	1%	3	0%	2	0%	3	1%
Exercise regularly (15+ minutes at least 3x per week)	1673	73%	1178	74%	495	72%	347	73%	266	71%
CASI score (-4 to 1.75)	0.35	0.7	0.38	0.70	0.28	0.71	0.29	0.73	0.26	0.69
Body Mass Index	27.2	4.8	27.2	4.8	27.2	4.8	27.3	4.9	27.3	4.6

^aSome participants used both tricyclics and SSRIs.

Table 2.

Predictors of Antidepressant Use in the Adult Changes in Thought Cohort

	Baseline covariates			Baseline and time-dependent covariates		
	OR	95% CI		OR	95% CI	
Female	1.38	1.18	1.61	1.51	1.26	1.81
Education (years)	0.96	0.94	0.99	0.99	0.97	1.02
White	1.15	0.87	1.52	1.32	0.96	1.80
Age	1.03	1.02	1.05	1.01	0.99	1.02
Cubic spline for time (months)						
Intercept	1.00	0.99	1.02	1.01	0.99	1.02
Linear term	0.92	0.76	1.13	0.89	0.73	1.09
Quadratic term	1.23	0.79	1.94	1.34	0.83	2.14
Cubic term	0.80	0.56	1.16	0.77	0.52	1.12
Framingham Stroke Risk score				1.00	0.99	1.01
CES-D score				1.07	1.05	1.10
Married or live with partner				1.05	0.88	1.25
Self-rated health				1.23	1.12	1.36
ADL limitations				1.11	1.02	1.22
Cerebrovascular composite *				1.54	1.08	2.19
Exercise regularly				0.97	0.82	1.15
CASI score				0.75	0.67	0.84
Body Mass Index				0.99	0.98	1.01

* Previous stroke, transient ischemic attack, or carotid endarterectomy

Table 3.

Antidepressant Use and Incident Stroke in the Adult Changes in Thought Cohort

	Conventional Models, adjusted for baseline covariates*		Conventional Models, adjusted for baseline* and time-dependent*** covariates		Marginal Structural Models, adjusted for baseline covariates*	
	HR	95% CI	HR	95% CI	HR	95% CI
Any use among full sample						
Never received antidepressant	1.00		1.00		1.00	
At least one prescription	1.14	0.92 1.41	0.97	0.76 1.23	1.23	0.95 1.62
Filling 3+ prescriptions among full sample						
<=2 prescriptions	1.00		1.00		1.00	
3+ prescriptions	1.36	1.05 1.76	1.21	0.90 1.61	1.35	0.98 1.86
Any use among ever-diagnosed depressed						
Never received antidepressant	1.00		1.00		1.00	
At least one prescription	1.70	1.07 2.71	1.26	0.76 2.09	1.84	1.08 3.14
Number of prescriptions filled among full sample						
Per ten refills	1.06	0.99 1.15	0.93	1.14 1.08	0.93	1.26
Number of prescriptions filled among people with at least one prescription						
Per ten refills	1.11	1.02 1.20	1.03	1.01 1.26	1.08	0.93 1.26
Type of medication among full sample						
No antidepressants	1.00		1.00		1.00	
TCA	1.16	1.03 1.31	1.18	1.02 1.38	1.28	1.04 1.57
SSRI	1.01	0.90 1.14	0.93	0.78 1.10	0.98	0.80 1.20
Other medication	0.98	0.68 1.43	1.08	0.74 1.56	0.99	0.67 1.45

* Sex, years of education, non-white race/ethnicity, and age in years

** Framingham Stroke Risk score, CES-D score, Marital status, self-rated health, ADL limitations, regular exercise, CASI score, body mass index, and previous stroke, transient ischemic attack, or carotid endarterectomy.