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Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

Systematic Reviews of Epidemiologic Data on the Global Burden of Cardiovascular Disease

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Evidence for decision making, unequal burden of disease

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Abstract:

The new Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors (GBD) study represents the first major effort at a systematic review and revision of estimates in health conditions for every region in the world (www.globalburden.org). Updating and improving on the methods established in the original study (Murray and Lopez 1996) this work brings together scientists and experts in public health surveillance from around the globe to assess trends in the state of all major diseases, injuries, and risk factors. The work will yield, in a common metric, estimates of morbidity and mortality for regions that collectively span the world's population, generating comparable information on incidence and prevalence in global health. And it will provide information on past, present, and forecasted levels of disease and injury to raise awareness and understanding of the causal factors behind them. Determining the current epidemiology of the span of health conditions – infectious, chronic conditions, and injuries -- is important for several reasons. Disease burden data serve to guide allocation of scarce health resources for prevention and intervention strategies. Comparison with other global populations – low, middle, and high income – elucidates the structural, manpower, and material challenges underlying the unequal distribution of disease burden. Cardiovascular disease ranks among the top causes of disease burden in high and low income countries. For disease prevention strategies to be effective, it is essential to have information on the pattern of disease and exposure to major risk factors that predict future disease in the population. Estimates of the global burden of cardiovascular disease will be produced from systematic reviews of epidemiologic literature from 1980 through 2007 for 21 regions of the world. Results of the systematic review on stroke epidemiology will be highlighted as an example of this effort, including discussion of the systematic review methodology and the results of searching the global stroke literature on incidence, prevalence, case fatality, and mortality. The uneven distribution of the scientific literature on stroke will be discussed along with implications for future action.
