EMBARGOED UNTIL OCT 21, 2018

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Risk of Stroke Elevated up to Three Months after Acute Heart Attack, Two Months Longer than Previously Thought

Abstract to be presented at the American Neurological Association’s 143rd Annual Meeting October 21-23, 2018 in Atlanta

(MOUNT LAUREL, NJ, October 21, 2018) — The weeks following a heart attack have been associated with an increased risk of stroke, but how long that increased risk lasts was unknown until now. In research to be presented at the American Neurological Association’s 143rd Annual Meeting October 21-23, 2018, investigators at Weill Cornell Medicine studied the course of 1,750,000 patients suffering an acute myocardial infarction between 2008-2015, selected randomly from Medicare beneficiaries aged 66 or older. After adjustment for other factors, they found that the risk of stroke was still elevated up to three months after acute heart attack, two months longer than was previously thought.

The abstract, “Duration of Heightened Ischemic Stroke Risk After Acute Myocardial Infarction,” was submitted by Alexander Merkler, MD, PhD.

“These results will likely encourage more active and prolonged stroke prevention management of patients after a heart attack,” said M. Elizabeth Ross, MD, PhD; Director, Center for Neurogenetics at Weill Cornell Medicine and Chair of the ANA’s Scientific Program Advisory Committee.

To request access to the full program of abstracts (embargoed until the start of the Annual Meeting on October 21), please contact Rachel Brown at rbrown@steegethomson.com.

Members of the media are welcome to attend the full meeting and can view the full advance program here. For the meeting schedule at a glance, click here. To register and obtain press credentials, please click here.
About the American Neurological Association (ANA)

From advances in stroke and dementia to movement disorders and epilepsy, the American Neurological Association has been the vanguard of research since 1875 as the premier professional society of academic neurologists and neuroscientists devoted to understanding and treating diseases of the nervous system. Its monthly *Annals of Neurology* is among the world’s most prestigious medical journals, and the ANA’s *Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology* is an online-only, open access journal providing rapid dissemination of high-quality, peer-reviewed research related to all areas of neurology. The acclaimed ANA Annual Meeting draws faculty and trainees from the top academic departments across the U.S. and abroad for groundbreaking research, networking, and career development. For more information, visit www.myana.org or @TheNewANA1.

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