

*Ovid Medline search strategy*

1. Stroke/
2. Cerebrovascular Disorders/
3. exp basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease/ or exp brain ischemia/ or carotid artery diseases/ or carotid artery thrombosis/ or carotid stenosis/ or exp intracranial arterial diseases/ or exp "intracranial embolism and thrombosis"/ or exp intracranial hemorrhages/ or exp brain infarction/ or hypoxia-ischemia, brain/
4. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or cortical or vertebrobasil\$ or hemispher\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebr\$ or infratentorial or supratentorial or mca\$ or middle cerebr\$ or anterior circulation or posterior circulation or basal ganglia or parenchyma\$ or brain?stem or posterior fossa or ganglion\$ or thalam\$ or cortical) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or occlus\$ or hypox\$ or obstruction or vasculopathy)).tw.
5. ((lacunar or cortical) adj5 infarct\$).tw.
6. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracerebr\$ or intracran\$ or parenchyma\$ or intraventricular or infratentorial or supratentorial or basal gang\$ or ganglion\$ or putaminal or putamen or posterior fossa or brain?stem or intra?axial or lobar or deep or thalam\$ or cortical or superficial or vertebrobasil\$ or front\$ or tempor\$ or pariet\$ or occipit\$) adj5 (haemorrhage\$ or hemorrhage\$ or haematoma\$ or hematoma\$ or bleed\$)).tw.
7. ((h?emorrhag\$ or isch?emi\$) adj6 (stroke\$ or cerebrovasc\$ or cerebr?vasc\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or brain vasc\$ or cva\$ or apoplex\$ or attack\$ or event\$ or insult\$)).tw.
8. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
9. exp Pathology, Clinical/
10. exp Amyloid beta-Protein/ or exp Amyloid/ or exp Amyloid beta-Protein Precursor/
11. exp Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy/
12. exp Congo Red/
13. (cerebral amyloid angiopathy or congophil\$ or congo?red or amyloid\$ or A?beta or beta?amyloid).tw.
14. 10 or 11 or 12 or 13
15. (patholog\$ or post?mortem\$ or autops\$ or necrops\$ or biops\$ or tissue\$ or histo?patholog\$ or neuro?patholog\$ or clinic?patholog\$).tw.
16. 9 or 15
17. 8 and 14 and 16
18. limit 17 to humans

*Ovid Embase search strategy*

1. cerebrovascular disease/
2. basal ganglion hemorrhage/ or cerebral artery disease/ or cerebrovascular accident/ or stroke/ or vertebrobasilar insufficiency/ or exp carotid artery disease/ or exp brain hematoma/ or exp brain hemorrhage/ or brain infarction/ or brain infarction size/ or brain stem infarction/ or cerebellum infarction/ or exp brain ischemia/ or exp occlusive cerebrovascular disease/ or cerebellum injury/ or exp carotid artery/
3. ((h?emorrhag\$ or isch?emi\$) adj6 (stroke\$ or cerebrovasc\$ or cerebr?vasc\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or brain vasc\$ or cva\$ or apoplex\$ or attack\$ or event\$ or insult\$)).tw.
4. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or cortical or vertebrobasil\$ or hemispher\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebr\$ or infratentorial or supratentorial or mca\$ or middle cerebr\$ or anterior circulation or posterior circulation or basal ganglia or parenchyma\$ or brain?stem or posterior fossa or ganglion\$ or thalam\$ or cortical) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or occlus\$ or hypox\$ or obstruction or vasculopathy)).tw.
5. ((lacunar or cortical) adj5 infarct\$).tw.
6. ((brain or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracerebr\$ or intracran\$ or parenchyma\$ or intraventricular or infratentorial or supratentorial or basal gang\$ or ganglion\$ or putaminal or putamen or posterior fossa or brain?stem or intra?axial or lobar or deep or thalam\$ or cortical or superficial or vertebrobasil\$ or front\$ or tempor\$ or pariet\$ or occipit\$) adj5 (haemorrhage\$ or hemorrhage\$ or haematoma\$ or hematoma\$ or bleed\$)).tw.
7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6
8. "amyloid beta protein[1-42]"/ or exp amyloid/ or "amyloid beta protein[1-40]"/ or exp amyloid precursor protein/ or exp amyloid beta protein/
9. exp vascular amyloidosis/
10. exp congo red/
11. (cerebral amyloid angiopathy or congophil\$ or congo?red or amyloid\$ or A?beta or beta?amyloid).tw.
13. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11
14. exp pathology/
15. (patholog\$ or post?mortem\$ or autops\$ or necrops\$ or biops\$ or tissue\$ or histo?patholog\$ or neuro?patholog\$ or clinic?patholog\$).tw.
16. 14 or 15
17. 7 and 13 and 16
18. limit 17 to human

**TABLE 4**

Strength	What is the strength of the association?
Consistency	Is there consistency with other studies?
Specificity	Does a single cause produce a single effect?
Temporal relationship	Is the time sequence compatible?
Dose response	Is there evidence of a biological gradient?
Plausibility	Is there biological credibility to the hypothesis?
Coherence	Is the finding consistent with existing knowledge?
Experiment	Can the association be confirmed by an appropriate experiment?
Analogy	Have similar explanations been offered for other conditions?