**Migraine can put women at higher risk of heart diseases**

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Women who suffer from migraine headaches have an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease in later life, says a study.   
  
The findings showed that women with migraine have a higher risk of stroke or heart attacks than those without the condition.   
  
"Our analysis suggests that migraine should be considered an important risk marker for cardiovascular disease, particularly in women," said lead researcher Tobias Kurth, Head of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) at Charite - Universitatsmedizin Berlin, a teaching hospital in Germany.   
  
Their findings are based on an analysis of data collected as part of the US-based Nurses' Health Study II.   
  
A team of US and German researchers analysed data from more than 115,500 women enrolled in the Nurses' Health Study II.   
  
The participants were aged between 25 and 42 years at baseline and free from cardiovascular disease and, of them, 17,531 reported a physician's diagnosis of migraine.   
  
Between 1989 and 20xx, cardiovascular events were observed in 1,329 of these women; 223 died as a result.   
  
"The risk of developing cardiovascular events was shown to be 50 per cent higher in women with a diagnosis of migraine," Kurth said.   
  
"When compared to women unaffected by the condition, the risk of developing a heart attack was 39 per cent higher for women with migraine, the risk of having a stroke 62 per cent higher, and that of developing angina 73 per cent higher," Kurth explained.   
  
The results were published in the British Medical Journal.   
  
The researchers said that further research would be necessary in order to identify the underlying causes responsible for the links between migraine and cardiovascular diseases.   
  
The question of whether male migraine sufferers also have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease remains to be elucidated.