



CANADIAN STROKE BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

Vascular Cognitive Impairment Seventh Edition, 2024

Figure 1: Heart & Stroke heart-brain associations map—All cardiovascular conditions can lead to vascular cognitive impairment

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Figure 1: Heart & Stroke heart-brain associations map—All cardiovascular conditions can lead to vascular cognitive impairment

Associations of varying strength between several vascular conditions and subsequent development of vascular cognitive impairment is shown in the heat map below. Therefore, within these recommendations, consideration of cognitive decline beyond stroke is warranted. The strength of the associations was determined through an extensive review of the literature and analysis of research findings and review papers by a panel of expert advisors (Heart & Stroke 2019).

Heat map of associations between heart conditions, stroke and vascular cognitive impairment

Read along the horizontal rows to understand the strength of the associated risk of each condition on the left with vascular cognitive impairment.

Strength of Association: ● No Known Association ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong

		Vascular Cognitive Impairment
CONDITIONS	Atrial Fibrillation	Moderate
	Heart Failure	Strong
	Stroke	Strong
	Congenital Heart Disease	Strong
	Heart Valve Disease	Weak
	Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)	Moderate
	Coronary Artery & Vascular Disease	Strong
	Cardiac Arrest	Moderate