

# Learning collaborative for ischemic stroke: Correlation between protocols for stroke care and adherence in clinical practice to improve outcomes

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## BACKGROUND

- Adequate treatment of stroke is key in the reduction of mortality and morbidity.
- To streamline the care process, a **Breakthrough Improvement Collaborative** was established between Flemish hospitals (BIC4Stroke).
  - Retrospective patient record analyses per hospital.
  - Variation in the clinical performance (within and between hospitals).
- Variation was observed for these **FeSS<sup>+</sup>** indicators:
  - Measuring body temperature (Fever)
  - Measuring glycemia (Sugar)
  - Swallowing function screening (Swallowing)
  - Depression screening
  - Activities of Daily Living (ADL) screening

## AIM

To analyze the protocols of 24 Flemish hospitals, all part of the BIC4Stroke, to gain insight into this established variation and the correlation between adherence and performance.

## METHODS

- Deductive content analysis of the protocols of the FeSS<sup>+</sup> indicators.
- Calculation of the correlations between protocol content and clinical performance via Pearson's and Spearman's correlation tests.

## RESULTS

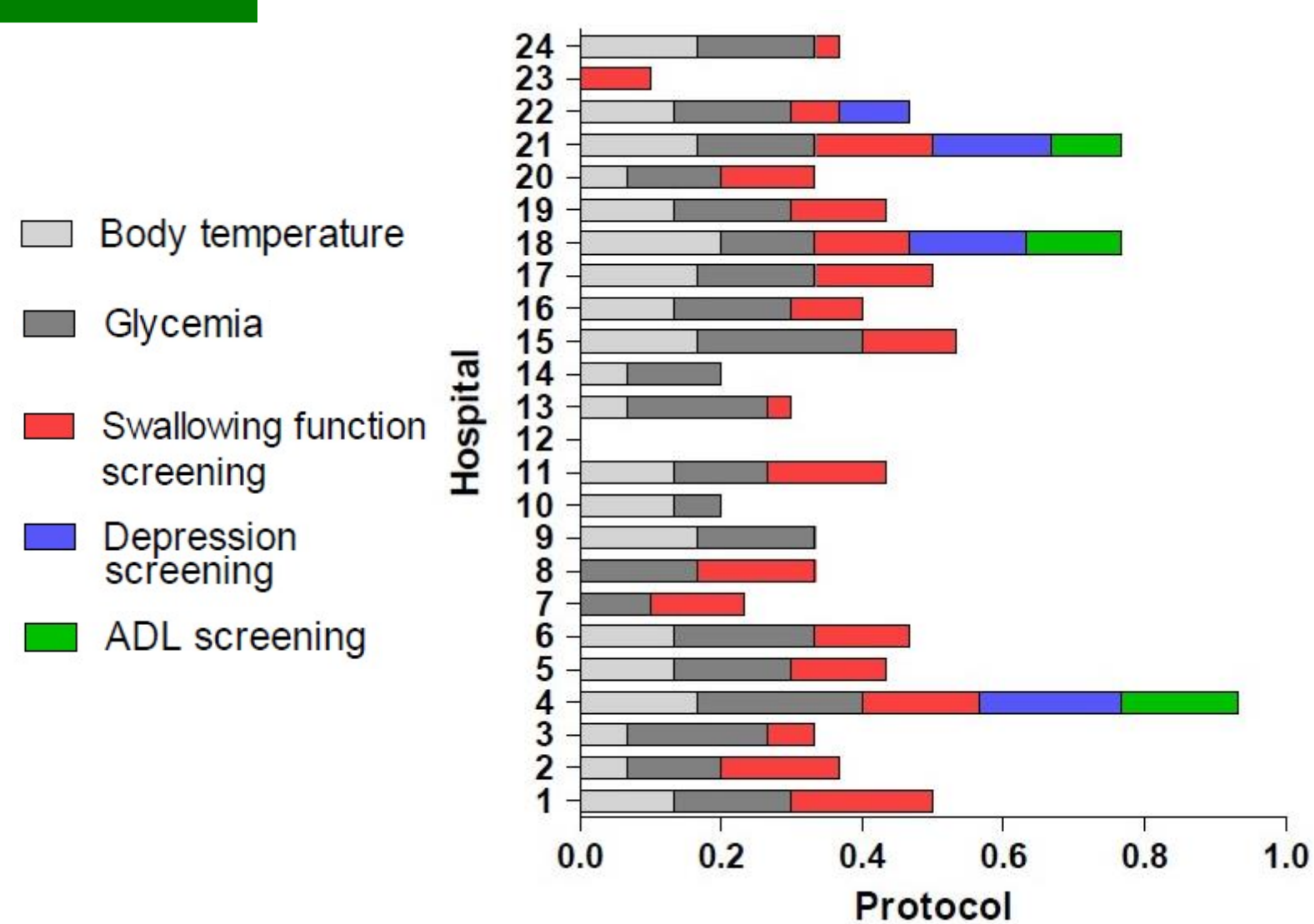


Figure 1: Overview of the content of the protocols regarding the FeSS<sup>+</sup> indicators

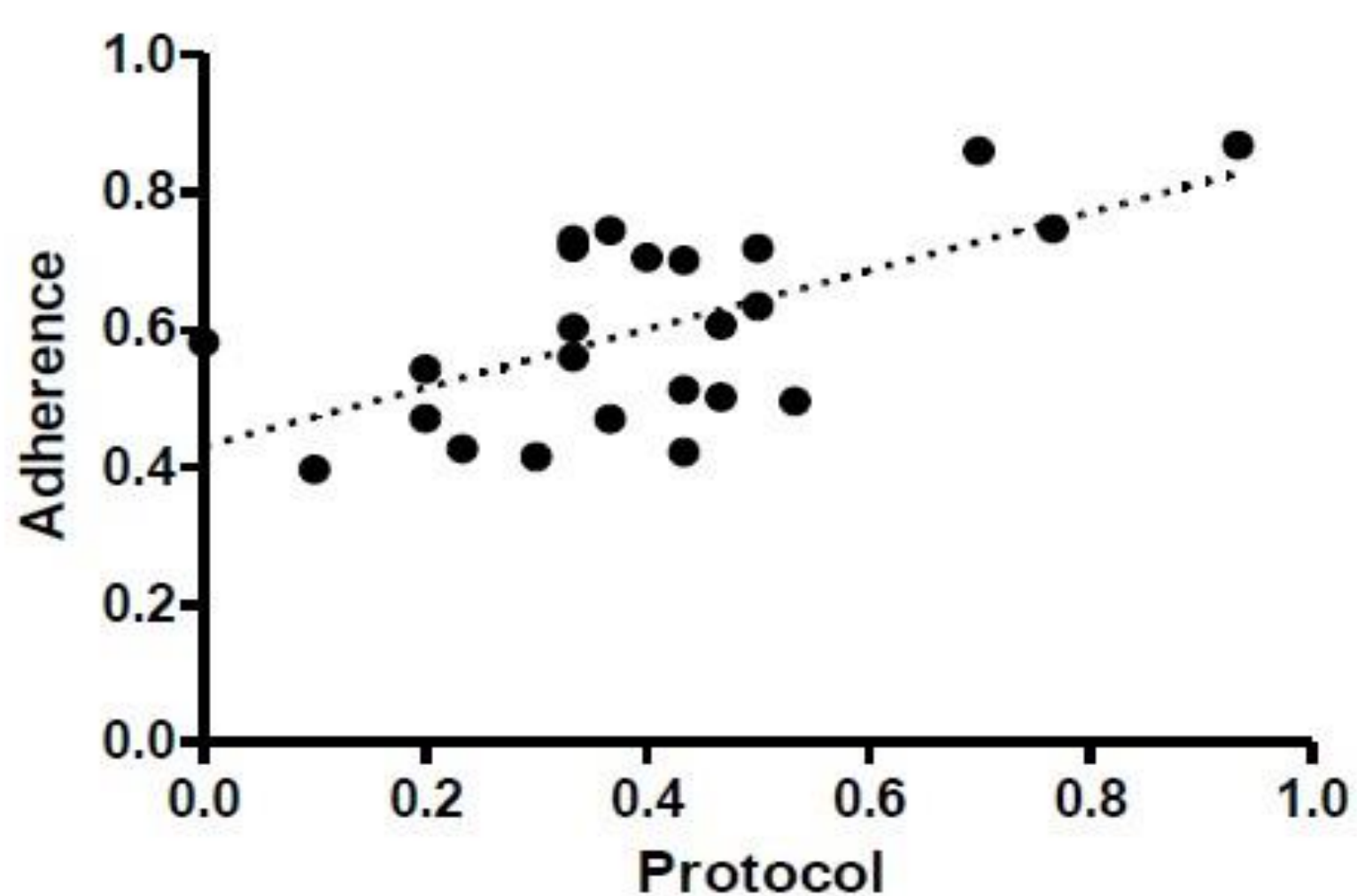


Figure 2: Significant correlation between protocol content and adherence. Adherence score calculated based on 30 patients/hospital (n=24), Pearson correlation coefficient  $r = 0.61$ ,  $p = 0.01$

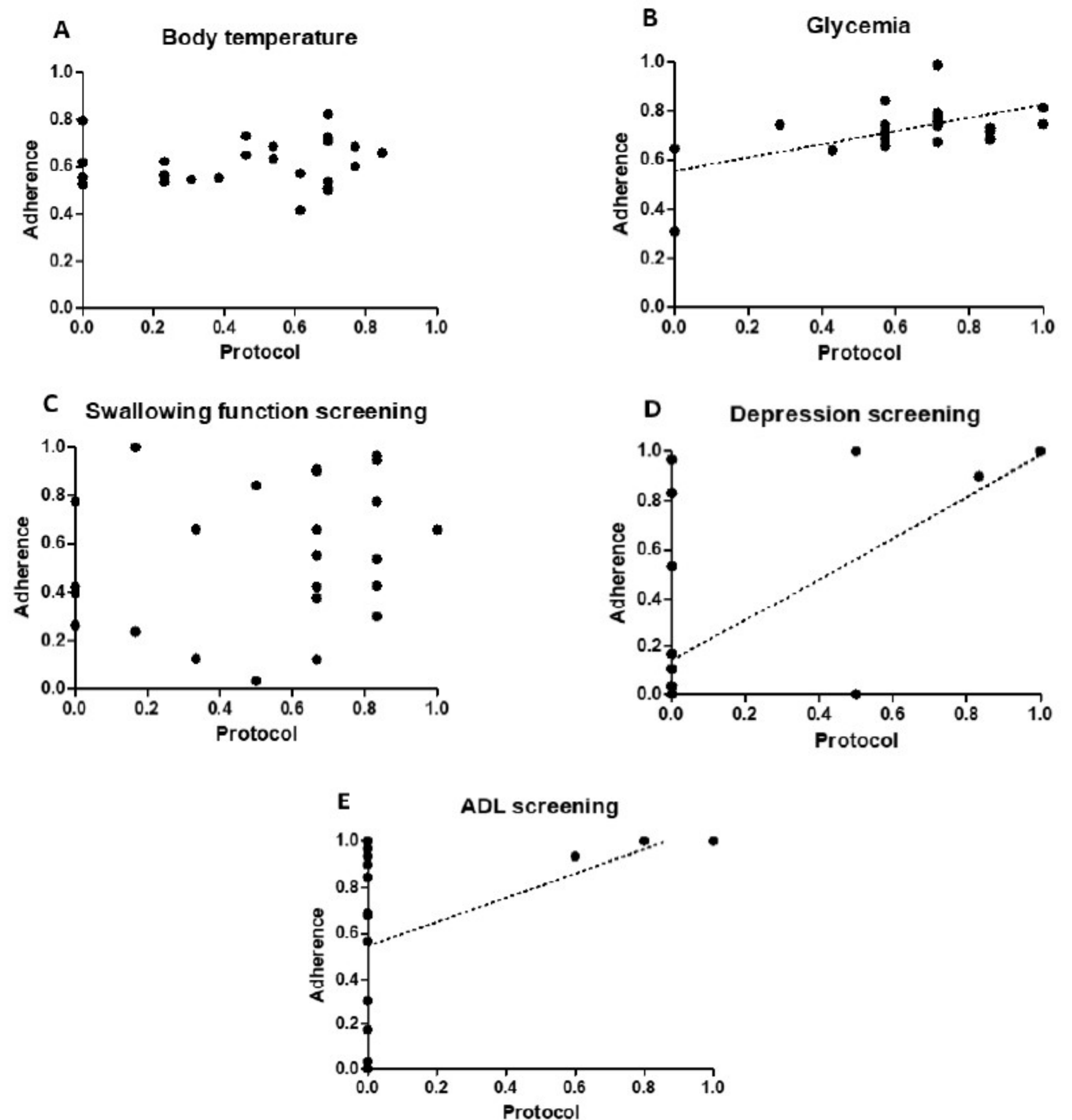


Figure 3: Correlation between hospital specific protocol content and adherence (A) Body temperature ( $r_s = 0.1410$ ,  $p = 0.5109$ ), (B) glycemia ( $r_s = 0.4168$ ,  $p = 0.0427$ ), (C) swallowing function screening ( $r_s = 0.2671$ ,  $p = 0.2070$ ), (D) depression screening ( $r_s = 0.4292$ ,  $p = 0.0363$ ) and (E) ADL screening ( $r_s = 0.4393$ ,  $p = 0.0317$ ). For all 24 hospitals, 30 patients were included in the adherence scores.

## CONCLUSION

- Importance of having protocols that are both complete, in accordance with the latest guidelines, and well-implemented.
  - Closing the gap between guidelines and daily practice.
- Implementation of evidence-based treatment protocols results in better adherence to the guidelines and, in turn, may improve patient outcomes.
- Learning collaboratives as the BIC4Stroke can help with this by facilitating knowledge sharing between hospitals.

## MORE INFORMATION?

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Learn more about the BIC4Stroke:

