Awareness about stroke warning signs, risk factors and proper response could improve the outcome and minimize the burden of stroke.

METHOD
A cross sectional study involved 1472 adult subjects. The sample was stratified by the primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) to represent the composition of Abha City’ PHCCs adult attendants. Consecutive persons attending PHCCs on selected days during the study period were invited to participate. A validated questionnaire was used to evaluate the participant’s awareness about stroke. Multivariable logistic regression was used to assess factors associated with awareness of stroke symptoms, major stroke risk factors and response.

RESULTS
Only 936 (63.6%) and (43.7%) correctly recognized thrombosis and hemorrhage, respectively, as types of stroke. Commonly identified risk factors were hypertension (55.8%) followed by dyslipidemia (45.8%) and smoking (41.8%) (figure 1).

CONCLUSION
Worrying deficit of knowledge about stroke warning symptoms, risk factors and proper response is detected. Health education strategies to improve stroke awareness are urgently required and could potentially prevent and improve outcome of stroke.

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