

Top Ten Things To Know Guidelines for the Early Management Of Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke

1. Public education about stroke symptoms is critical to early awareness and treatment of acute stroke must be repeated for sustained impact.
2. This guideline includes several recommendations for quality improvements related to acute ischemic stroke care.
3. Stroke systems of care play a major role in the early treatment of acute ischemic stroke.
4. The use of telemedicine and teleradiology in stroke systems of care is encouraged to facilitate better ability to make acute treatment decisions within organized systems.
5. The use of organized emergency department protocols is critical to ensure that the door to administration (needle) time of rt-PA is within 60 minutes of arrival to the hospital.
6. Acute brain neuroimaging is critical before initiating any specific therapy; acute stroke treatments and types of multimodality imaging are discussed in this guideline.
7. Guidance is presented on the acute management of hypertension in patients with acute ischemic stroke.
8. Endovascular interventions, including IA thrombolysis, mechanical thrombectomy, and intracerebral angioplasty or stenting, are examined as possible treatment modalities in acute ischemic stroke, but more research on patient outcomes is recommended. rt-PA still remains the gold standard for acute ischemic stroke treatment.
9. The use of certain anticoagulants such as argatroban or other thrombin inhibitors is recommended to only be used in the setting of clinical research trials.
10. Augmentation of cerebral blood flow and neuroprotective modalities are discussed and put in context in the setting of treatments of acute ischemic stroke.

Jauch EC, Saver JL, Adams HP Jr, Bruno A, Connors JJ, Demaerschalk BM, Khatri P, McMullan PW Jr, Qureshi AI, Rosenfield K, Scott PA, Summers DR, Wang DZ, Wintermark M, Yonas H; on behalf of the American Heart Association Stroke Council, Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, Council on Peripheral Vascular Disease Council, and Council on Clinical Cardiology. Guidelines for the early management of patients with acute ischemic stroke: a guideline for healthcare professionals from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke*. 2013; published online before print January 31, 2013. 10.1161/STR.0b013e318284056a.
<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1161/STR.0b013e318284056a>