



Journal Club: The ED Management of Intracerebral Hemorrhage Patients

Learning Objectives

- Review publications that address the optimal management of ED ICH patients.
- Discuss the implications of these articles on the way in which ICH patients will be diagnosed and treated in the Emergency Department.

Background

This journal club reviews a few of the many important articles published that describe the optimal management of intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) patients. The discussion begins with a review of two articles; the first describes the ability of ICH volume and presenting GCS score to predict outcome in ICH patients, and the second addresses the temporal growth of ICH volume and its impact on patient outcome. The discussion continues with three recently published articles that study the use of recombinant factor VIIa in managing patients with ICH, as well as a *NEJM* editorial published in response to the 2005 *NEJM* publication of a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of FVIIa in 399 ICH patients. Lastly, the results of the international STITCH trial of operative intervention in ICH patients will be summarized.

The journal club will include the discussion of two review articles that address both current ICH patient management standards and research horizons in this important clinical area. The American Heart Association's "Guidelines on the Management of Spontaneous Intracerebral Hemorrhage" will be reviewed, as will the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke's "Priorities for Clinical Research in Intracerebral Hemorrhage". These review articles not only address how current care can be optimized, they also address which are the clinical areas that require further study in order know how to optimize ICH patient care. FERNE is pleased to be able to provide a clinical perspective on these articles as they are reviewed and discussed with the audience of emergency health care providers.

Key Clinical Questions

- What diagnostics and therapies allow for the optimal management of ED ICH patients?
- What are the roles of operative intervention, FVIIa, and ICH hemorrhage volume in determining ICH patient outcome?
- What can be learned about ICH patient care from the published guidelines and research priorities?