



Stroke Care 2006: Critical Issues in Emergency Medicine

ED Transient ischemic Attack Patient Management: What Role for Outpatient Evaluation and Disposition?

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Learning Objectives

- Discuss the results of the Ross study that suggest that an outpatient evaluation of ED stroke patients can be safely conducted.
- Determine what diagnostic and therapeutic evaluations must take place in order to safely discharge ED TIA patients home for outpatient follow-up.

Background

Ross conducted a EMR/FERNE supported study that evaluated the utility of an observation unit evaluation of ED TIA patients as compared to a traditional hospital evaluation. The study results, which were presented at the 2006 SAEM meeting, suggest that patients can safely be discharged from the ED following a structured clinical evaluation. This research, incidentally, won the award for the best clinical presentation at this year's meeting.

Because it appears that it is possible to successfully evaluate and treat ED TIA patients as outpatients, the questions that follow are: What tests and treatments must be conducted prior to discharge, and which patients must be admitted based on positive findings from the initial ED evaluation?

Key Clinical Questions

What is the expected outcome of ED TIA patients who are evaluated and treated in an outpatient observation unit based on the Ross study?

What diagnostic and therapeutic evaluations must take place in order to safely discharge TIA patients home from the ED for outpatient follow-up?