

***Acute Ischemic Stroke
Management:
2004 Emergency Medicine
Perspectives***

FERNE

Edward P. Sloan, MD, MPH, FACEP

***Professor &
Research Development Director
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Illinois College of Medicine
Chicago, IL***

Edward P. Sloan, MD, MPH, FACEP FERNE



Overall Objectives

- Make stroke care more consistent
- Enhance systematic approach
- Improve patient care

- Efficient diagnosis and treatment
- Minimized morbidity and mortality

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Session Objectives

- Consider stroke care broadly
- Examine current ED practices
- Evaluate the recent literature
- Discuss stroke center designation
- Review educational opportunities

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Lecture Format

- Key Learning Points
- Emergency Medicine Opportunities

- Provides background for the other lectures provided in this educational session

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Key Learning Points

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Acute Stroke Care

- Acute stroke is a medical emergency that is aggressively managed by emergency physicians with radiology, neurology and neurosurgical consultation.

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Stroke Care Efforts

- There is increasing interest in the management of patients who present with acute stroke because of the reanalysis of the NINDS clinical trials data, the efforts to promote stroke center designation, and the continued debate over tPA use.

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Emergency Medicine tPA Use

- The use of tPA in acute ischemic stroke is unique in the practice of Emergency Medicine, in that it requires informed consent in many institutions and it has generated policy statements by many Emergency Medicine organizations.

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EM Stroke Education

- Educational efforts in acute stroke care should be directed at competency at the initial neurological examination, including the utilization of assessment tools such as the NIHSS, and aggressive early management, including the optimal safe use of tPA and other modalities that enhance patient outcome.


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Stroke Guidelines

- Emergency physicians support a systematic approach to the care of the acutely ill ischemic stroke patient, and are willing to practice in accordance with clinically relevant guidelines that are evidence-based.

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Emergency Medicine Opportunities

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Acute Stroke Care

- Emergency physicians and Emergency Medicine organizations should actively participate in efforts to establish clinical guidelines regarding acute stroke care and in efforts by institutions to become designated stroke centers.

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Stroke Care Efforts

- Academic emergency physicians have an opportunity to educate both residents in training and practicing emergency physicians in the latest information regarding the NINDS data, stroke clinical guidelines, stroke center designation, and optimal strategies for the acute management of stroke patients.

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Emergency Medicine tPA Use

- Emergency Medicine organizations have the opportunity to enhance stroke care by developing clinical policies and guidelines that clarify the issues that surround stroke care, including stroke center designation and the use of tPA.

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EM Stroke Education

- There is the consistent need by all emergency physicians to participate in ongoing stroke care CME, which supports efforts at providing easily accessible and clinically relevant educational programs.

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Stroke Guidelines

- The most important clinical guidelines will instruct emergency physicians in how to provide the following for acute stroke patients:

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Stroke Guidelines

- A rapid initial assessment, including a directed neurological exam.
- Acute management strategies, including initial therapies and timely diagnostic testing and consultation.
- The evaluation for acute reperfusion therapies, including tPA.

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Stroke Guidelines

- Clinically relevant information that will allow for useful informed consent process to take place.
- The ability to efficiently document the Emergency Department encounter, including data that will allow for stroke severity to be assessed.

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In Conclusion...

- Emergency physicians are the front line
- Acute stroke care is a priority
- There are tangible ongoing needs

- Develop relevant clinical guidelines
- Educate practitioners, residents based on these evidence-based methods
- Improve ED stroke patient care

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Questions?

edsloan@uic.edu

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