

**Key Clinical Issues in Treating the Acute Stroke Patient:
What You Should Know
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Post-test Answers

1. True or False: In the ECASS III Trial, while the incidence of any ICH was higher with Alteplase than with placebo, mortality did not differ.

True
 False

**See Hacke W, Kaste M, Bluhmki E, Brozman M, Dávalos A, Guidetti D, Larrue V, Lees KR, Medeghri Z, Machnig T, Schneider D, von Kummer R, Wahlgren N, Toni D; ECASS Investigators. Thrombolysis with alteplase 3 to 4.5 hours after acute ischemic stroke. N Engl J Med. 2008 Sep 25;359(13):1317-29.
(<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/359/13/1317.pdf>)**

2. Check all that apply: the additional exclusion criteria for use of IV-tPA in the 3.0- to 4.5-hour time window include:

Patients older than 80 years
 Those taking oral anticoagulants prior to admission
 Those with a baseline NIH Stroke Scale score greater than 25
 Those with both a history of stroke and diabetes
 All of the above

**See the 2009 AHA/ASA Science Advisory.
(<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/40/8/2945>)**

3. True or False: Ideally, for every stroke patient who does not receive IV-tPA, there should be a reason written in the medical record as to why IV-tPA was not administered. Documentation must be explicit and be written by either a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.

True
 False

It is the intent that the abstractor will not make inference as to the reason for non-treatment, but will abstract from documented reasons existing in the medical record. "Physicians need to adopt good habits of documentation to be aware of their obligations. A number of malpractice cases have been reported to a large malpractice insurer and were found to be 'difficult to defend, not because of the medical care, but because the physicians did not document their thought processes in the medical records'." [Source: Physicians Reciprocal Insurers. Documentation of Medical Reasoning/ Judgment Alert: 2006; 1]

4. What is the MA DPH recommended door to CT scan time target?

- 10 minutes
- 25 minutes**
- 30 minutes
- 35 minutes
- 60 minutes

See 105 CMR 130.1406

(http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/regs/105cmr103_140_amend.pdf) and Primary Stroke Service Circular Letter DHCQ 09-06-512 (http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/healthcare/pss_time_target_recommendations.pdf).

5. Check all that apply: Who can administer the NIH Stroke Scale?

- Physicians**
- Nurses**
- Therapists**
- Anyone trained

The scale is designed to be a simple, valid, and reliable tool that can be administered at the bedside consistently by physicians, nurses or therapists. [Source: National Stroke Association website (<http://www.stroke.org>)]

6. True or False: The extended time window for the provision of IV-tPA has resulted in an expansion of the recommended door to needle time for IV-tPA in ischemic stroke patients.

- True
- False**

The MA DPH recommended door to needle time for IV-tPA has been 60 minutes since 2004. See Primary Stroke Service Circular Letter DHCQ 04-4-440 (http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/hcq_circular_letters/hospital_stroke_0404440.pdf) and DHCQ 09-06-512 (http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/healthcare/pss_time_target_recommendations.pdf).

7. What is the MA DPH recommended door to treatment time for IV-tPA?

- 25 minutes
- 30 minutes
- 35 minutes
- 60 minutes**
- 180 minutes

See Primary Stroke Service Circular Letter DHCQ 04-4-440

(http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/hcq_circular_letters/hospital_stroke_0404440.pdf) and DHCQ 09-06-512 (http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/healthcare/pss_time_target_recommendations.pdf).

8. True or False: IV-tPA administration to eligible patients within 3.0-4.5 hours after onset of acute ischemic stroke is now recommended by the AHA (Class 1, Level B).

True
 False

See 2009 AHA/ASA Science Advisory

(<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/40/8/2945>).

9. IV-tPA is FDA approved to treat ischemic strokes:

During the first hour after symptom onset
 During the first 3 hours after symptom onset
 During the first 4.5 hours after symptom onset
 During the first 6 hours after symptom onset
 IV-tPA is currently not FDA approved

See page 3 of the FDA approval letter for Alteplase.

(<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/TherapeuticBiologicApplications/ucm080828.pdf>)

10. True or False: Patients who are not eligible for treatment in the first few hours may become eligible in the later window and should still be considered for treatment

True
 False

Due to the dynamic nature of acute stroke symptoms and patient response to interventions (e.g. blood pressure control), patients who are not eligible for treatment in the first few hours may become eligible in the later window and should still be considered for treatment.