

CASE REPORT : AGING IS NOT A BARRIER TO SUCCESSFUL THROMBOLYSIS IN ACUTE STROKE

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INTRODUCTION

Acute ischemic stroke is significantly more prevalent in elderly population and this increases markedly with age.¹ The incidence rate of first ever stroke in elderly patient can be as high 18-20/1000 with an estimated overall prevalence of 7.4%.¹ Elderly patients are more likely to present with severe stroke and have longer hospital stay. However, with timely recognition and treatment, meaningful recovery is still possible.

CASE DESCRIPTION

A 96 years old gentleman with no known medical illnesses and able to perform daily activities independently presented to our centre with the complaint of slurred speech and left sided facial weakness. Upon arrival, his GCS was 15/15 with preserved power of bilateral upper limb and lower limb. Patient was hemodynamically stable with initial NIHSS score of 8. CT Brain was performed and showed no signs of intracranial bleed. As patient was presented to our centre within the time window of 4.5 hours with no absolute contraindication, he was thrombolysed with IV Alteplase. Post thrombolysis, his NIHSS improved significantly to 1 and repeated CT Brain showed no hemorrhagic complications. Patient was able to recover well with good neurological outcome.

DISCUSSION

The benefits of thrombolysis in acute ischemic stroke have been proven. However, there is limited data of its benefit from randomised trials in patients aged more than 80 years old. In clinical practice, advanced age has been a factor for withholding thrombolysis in very elderly patients with acute ischemic stroke, fearing it to be associated with poorer prognosis, higher risk of hemorrhagic transformation and higher in-hospital mortality.² The success of thrombolysis in our case highlights that age alone should not be a barrier for thrombolytic therapy in acute ischemic stroke

CONCLUSION

This case has proven that with appropriate history taking, examinations and proper patient selection, including consideration of imaging findings and overall health status, thrombolysis can be a viable treatment options for very elderly patient with acute ischemic stroke.

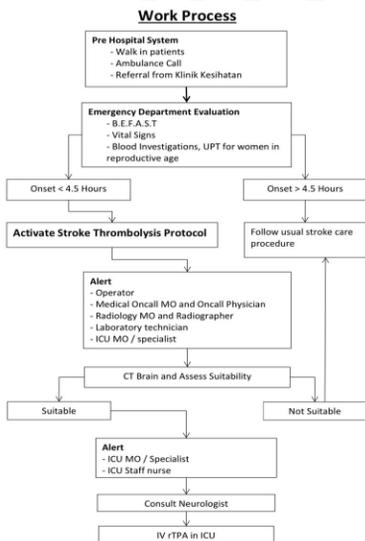
KEYWORDS

Acute Stroke, Elderly, Thrombolysis

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ACUTE ISCHAEMIC STROKE THROMBOLYSIS PROTOCOL



Patient's name:

IC:

Hospital Kapit
Version 1.5

