

CEREBRAL VASCULAR ACCIDENT (CVA OR STROKE)

SUBJECTIVE:

Acute onset of focal neurological deficit - commonly unilateral paralysis (extremity or facial weakness typically on one side of the body) or aphasia (absent, abnormal, or slurred speech). Patients with these symptoms of less than 6 hours duration may be candidates for thrombolytic (TPA) or other interventional therapy.

Other symptoms of stroke may include disturbances in consciousness, ataxia, visual loss, diplopia (double vision), dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), seizure, coma or death.

These symptoms may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, or headache.

Risk factors for stroke include prior stroke or TIA, hypertension, angina or heart attack, diabetes, and smoking history.

OBJECTIVE:

Patient assessment should include the evaluation of pupils, speech, language, motor responses and sensations. Limbs should be evaluated for equal strength and motion. Neurological exam findings may change with time. Monitor blood pressure, pulse, respirations, cardiac rhythm and blood sugar.

ASSESSMENT:

Diagnosis of stroke (CVA) is made on the basis of patient history and physical exam. "Stroke mimics" include trauma, hypoglycemia, seizure disorder, psychiatric disorder and drug ingestion.

TREATMENT:

- First Responder:**
- Oxygen
 - Reduce scene time and rapid transport to the hospital if the patient may be a candidate for thrombolytic (TPA) or other interventional therapy by meeting all of the following:
 - Onset of symptoms < 6 hours while awake – note time of onset
 - No convulsive (jerking) seizure activity – witnessed or reported.
 - If patient may be a candidate for thrombolytic or other interventional therapy, transport to RVMC or PMMC based on patient choice and nearest hospital with radio call of "Stroke Alert" and report: the presence or absence of:
 - Facial droop
 - Arm drift
 - Abnormal speech, andthe specific time of symptom onset
- If at all possible, bring witnesses or contact phone numbers.

- EMT - B:**
- Check blood sugar
 - Oral glucose if airway is protected
 - King Supraglottic Airway or dual lumen airway device

- EMT - I:**
- Cardiac monitor
 - IV or IO with saline lock
 - Dextrose IV or IO for hypoglycemia

- EMT - P:**
- Advanced airway