



Alteplase and Acute Ischemic Stroke

Guideline and Checklist for Selecting Patients

(Review this checklist with consulting neurologist)

General Guidelines for all Alteplase candidates who can be treated within 4.5 hours of stroke start or last known well.

Contraindications: Any checked box is potential contraindication that should be discussed with a neurologist.

- Less than 18 years old
- Time to last known normal > 4.5 hours unless additional imaging (MRI) can confirm stroke duration is within Alteplase treatment window of 4.5 hours.
- CT with evidence of bleeding or frank hypodensity in area corresponding to symptoms
- Uncontrollable hypertension (SBP>185, DBP>110) despite aggressive treatment
- Known history of >10 mm brain aneurysm, intra-axial tumor, intracranial hemorrhage
- INR greater than 1.7 (if on Coumadin & INR <1.7 consider Alteplase)
- Treatment dose of low molecular weight heparin within 24 hours (prophylactic dose okay)
- Direct thrombin inhibitor or direct factor Xa inhibitor within 48 hours or unknown last dose.
- Major head trauma or intracranial/intra-spinal surgery within 3 months (not absolute)
- History strongly suggestive of subarachnoid hemorrhage (not absolute depending on work-up)

Relative Contraindications: Treatment should be considered in a case-by-case risk/benefit discussion. Any checked box indicates a relative contraindication that should be discussed with the neurologist.

- History of chronic or acquired bleeding diathesis or coagulopathy
- Pregnancy
- Seizure at onset of stroke symptoms (consider CT Angiogram head)
- Major surgery or trauma within 14 days
- Previous stroke within 3 months
- Mild symptoms or rapidly improving (Alteplase should be considered if symptoms are disabling to the patient at time of treatment decision, regardless of NIHSS score.)
- Concurrent MI
- Intracranial, extra-axial tumor, known arteriovenous malformation
- Glucose less than 50 mg/dl (If after correction there is continued neurologic deficit consistent with acute ischemic stroke, consider Alteplase).
- Dural puncture or cardiac catheterization within last 7 days

Woke with symptoms or unclear time of onset:

- Consult with a neurologist about thrombolytic treatment options.