



Ischemic Stroke: Transport of the Alteplase Patient

Anna Burrows BSN, RN, Michael Sumner BSN, RN,
Kelly Perry BSN, RN, Vanessa Yoder BSN, RN

sentara nurse



Background

Ischemic stroke patients that come into the emergency department at SRMH require neurological intervention at a comprehensive stroke center.

- ❖ Emergency medical services (EMS) has no standardized protocol for monitoring and management of patients receiving Alteplase during transport.
- ❖ Current SRMH policy dictates a registered nurse to go with transport when the patient is receiving Alteplase.

Problem Identification

- ❖ A staffing shortage in the ED/CCU may arise when requiring a registered nurse to accompany a patient receiving Alteplase during transport.
- ❖ No policy exists identifying which physician (transferring or receiving) is responsible for placing orders during transport.
- ❖ EMS does not stock appropriate medications for blood pressure management



Literature Review & Recommendations

- ❖ Developed the following recommendations based on literature review:
 1. Hemodynamic control and neurological monitoring are critical to improve patient outcomes.
 - ❖ Research supports the NIHSS or the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale over the Glasgow Coma Scale
 - ❖ Drug of Choice: Labetalol or Nicardipine to stabilize systolic blood pressure < 180mmHg and diastolic < 105mmHg.
- 1. Transport may occur without RN for EMS agencies following EBP protocols
- ❖ Recommendations presented to the Stroke Core Team at SRMH.
 - ❖ Emergency Department, Critical Care Unit Clinical Nurse Specialists.
 - ❖ Stroke Medical Director
 - ❖ Cath Flow (Alteplase) Representative
 - ❖ Stroke Coordinator
 - ❖ Stroke Unit Educator
 - ❖ Emergency Department MD

Results and Implications

- ❖ Presented recommendations to the Stroke Work Team at SRMH.
 - ❖ Stroke Core Team
 - ❖ EMS Representative
 - ❖ Physical Therapy Leader
 - ❖ Radiology Lead
 - ❖ Laboratory Manager



- ❖ EMS personnel are qualified to monitor, evaluate and deliver appropriate therapies without a registered nurse present.
 - ❖ Collaborate and develop education and protocols that meet evidence-based guidelines.
 - ❖ Interviews with statewide stroke coordinators and specialists to compare policies and procedures.
- ❖ Physician teams working on process for orders during transport.
- ❖ Moving forward, transport of patients requiring Alteplase will not require utilization of hospital resources.
- ❖ Transition of patient care will include consistent care that follows evidence-based guidelines.