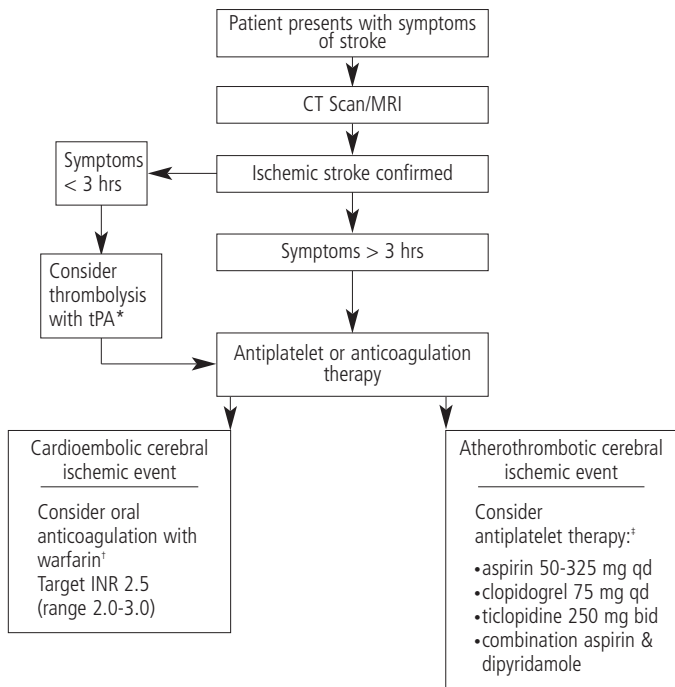




STROKE DECISION ALGORITHM



* See list of contraindications for tPA

† See list of contraindications for anticoagulation

‡ See list of contraindications for antiplatelet therapy

Reference:

• Albers GW, Easton JD, Sacco RL, Teal P. Antithrombotic and thrombolytic therapy for ischemic stroke. *Chest*. 1998;114(suppl):683S-698S.



INTRAVENOUS tPA: TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Initiate within 3 hours of onset of ischemic stroke: intravenous tPA (0.9mg/kg, max 90mg) with 10% of the dose given as a bolus followed by an infusion lasting 60 min.

► Indications

- Age \geq 18 years
- Non-contrast CT w/o evidence of hemorrhage
- Symptom onset < 3 hours

► Contraindications: Medical History

- Prior intracranial hemorrhage
- Prior stroke or head trauma within previous 3 months
- Major surgery within 14 days
- GI or urinary bleeding within 21 days
- Recent myocardial infarction
- Seizure at onset of stroke
- Current use of oral anticoagulants with PT > 15 seconds or INR > 1.7
- Use of heparin in previous 48 hours with prolonged partial thromboplastin time

► Contraindications: Clinical Examination

- Rapidly improving neurological signs
- Isolated mild neurological deficits (e.g. ataxia, dysarthria or sensory loss alone)
- Sustained systolic BP > 185 mm Hg or diastolic BP > 110 mm Hg in spite of aggressive therapy to control blood pressure

► Contraindications: CT or Lab Findings

- Evidence on CT of extensive hypodensity or sulcal effacement (>1/3 of MCA territory)
- Platelet count < 100,000/mm³
- Blood glucose < 50 mg/dL or > 400 mg/dL

References:

- Adams HP, Brott TG, Furlan AJ, et al: Guidelines for thrombolytic therapy for acute stroke: a supplement to the guidelines for the management of patients with acute ischemic stroke. A statement for healthcare professionals from a special writing group of the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association. *Stroke*. 1996;27:1711-1718.
- The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke t-PA Stroke Study Group. Tissue plasminogen activator for acute ischemic stroke. *N Engl J Med*. 1995;333:1581-1587.



ANTIPLATELET AGENTS FOR STROKE: CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Allergy
- Thrombocytopenia
- High risk for major bleeding, such as:
 - Gastrointestinal bleeding
 - Genitourinary bleeding
 - Intracranial bleeding
 - Hemoptysis
 - Retinal hemorrhage
 - Retroperitoneal bleeding
 - Post-procedure bleeding
 - Any other active internal bleeding

Past history of peptic ulcer disease is *not* a contraindication to antiplatelet agent use.