TIA GUIDELINES
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Transient Ischemic Attack – transient focal neurological or retinal symptoms lasting less than 24 hours thought secondary to ischemia

Immediate Triage

Symptoms still present (most TIA symptoms last 20-60 mins)

Code Stroke Ischemic Stroke Pathway

Symptoms resolved

ABCD2 Score
Age > 60 1 point
Blood Pressure >/= 140/90 1 point
Clinical Features of TIA:
Unilateral weakness with or without speech impairment 2 points
Speech impairment without unilateral weakness 1 point
Duration:
TIA duration >/= 60 minutes 2 point
TIA Duration 10-59 minutes 1 point
Diabetes 1 point

No High Risk Findings
Go to Low risk TIA protocol if ABCD2 = 0-3

Low risk TIA protocol

Admit if ABCD2 score ≥ 4

- Head CT, Carotid Ultrasound
- CBC, CMP, Lipids
- Standard Cardiac Monitoring
- Consider MRI/MA
- Routine cardiac Echo, coagulation workup
- ASA
- Contact Neurology

Symptoms return
BP consistently > 160/90

Code Stroke Ischemic Stroke Pathway

Symptoms resolved; but BP >160/90

Observe in ED, slowly decrease BP with medication and consider admission.

- Head CT, Routine ECG
- CBC, CMP
- ASA
- Consider Lipids
- Consider Carotid Ultrasound, MRI/MA
- Consider Routine cardiac Echo
- Consider Coagulation workup selectively – can be done as outpatient
- Consider Neurology evaluation

References:

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