Thrombolytic Therapy for CVA Debate: An Open or Shut Case?

Despite the fact that thrombolytic therapy for strokes presenting within three hours of onset has become standard of care in most medical centers, many emergency physicians do not feel that the literature supports the AHA recommendations. At the same time, some clinicians are extending the use of thrombolytic agents beyond the three-hour window. Using a case-based format with questions and answers, the panel will debate the merits of thrombolysis for acute CVA.

- Review the pertinent literature regarding the use of thrombolytics in acute strokes including the use of thrombolytics beyond the 3 hour interval.
- Describe the indications and contraindications to the use of thrombolytics.
- Describe the clinical scenario that thrombolytics may be the most beneficial.
- Discuss the concept of standard of care as it applies to stroke treatment in the ED.
- Outline risks emergency physicians face if they initiate treatment and experience a bad outcome versus not intervening and being accused of "negligence".

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WE-175
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

(+)No significant financial relationships to disclose
Acute Ischemic Stroke Debate

FOR or AGAINST ??

Opening statements –

Dr. Feske will spend the first 20 minutes presenting the “for” case

Dr. Hoffman will then take 20 minutes presenting the “against” case

During these statements, ACEP monitors will circulate in the room collecting 3x5 file cards (that were to have been passed out with this hand-out). Please write questions on the topic. The moderator will collect these and try to draw out a few central questions..

Q&A session –

The 2 discussants will be given equal time to respond to these questions.

REFERENCES – here is a list of germane references


