

Table 1: Oral Issues of Concern to the Stroke Team

Physicians provide a comprehensive evaluation prior to initiating acute stroke therapy. An oral examination is included. Angioedema is a known risk of rt-PA, so the tongue must be carefully monitored. The following are the questions a practitioner should consider.

1. Is there a subacute bacterial endocarditis source in the mouth?
2. If the patient is given thrombolytics, will bleeding in the mouth be a problem?
3. Are there oral issues that increase aspiration risk?
4. Does the patient have dentures (which can cause injury to an unconscious patient)?