

Table 2: Steps in the Treatment of Acute Stroke in the Emergency Department by the Stroke Team

1. Assess airway, breathing, and circulation.
2. History and physical examinations to confirm acute focal neurologic deficit.
3. Exclude stroke mimics: hypoglycemia, seizure, conversion disorder, and migraine.
4. Noncontrast head computed tomography to exclude intracerebral hemorrhage.
5. Obtain fasting blood sugar, complete blood count, and platelets.
6. Does patient meet intravenous (IV) rt-PA* criteria? See package insert.
7. Intravenous hydration to ensure cerebral perfusion.
8. Aspiration precautions.
9. If patient does not meet IV rt-PA criteria, give 81 mg of aspirin.
10. Admit to stroke unit for careful monitoring.