

TRIAGE ACUTE STROKE

1 **RECOGNIZE** the symptoms of stroke, and those that may be easily missed^{1*}

Ask if symptom onset was **sudden**²

Determine the time the patient was last known well²

Look for common symptoms³

BALANCE



WATCH FOR DIZZINESS OR LOSS OF BALANCE

EYES



CHECK FOR VISION LOSS OR DOUBLE VISION

FACE



LOOK FOR UNEVEN SMILE

ARM



CHECK IF ONE ARM OR LEG IS WEAK

SPEECH



LISTEN FOR SLURRED SPEECH OR DIFFICULTY SPEAKING

TIME



BEGIN TRIAGE IMMEDIATELY

2 **CHECK** any that apply to your patient:

SYMPTOMS that may be **EASILY MISSED**¹

- ☐ DIFFICULTY WALKING
- ☐ DIZZINESS
- ☐ HEADACHE
- ☐ NAUSEA/VOMITING
- ☐ SEIZURE
- ☐ SYNCOPE (**FAINTING**)

POSTERIOR STROKES can be more **DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY**⁴

Common symptoms include:

- ☐ DIZZINESS
- ☐ DIPLOPIA (**DOUBLE VISION**)
- ☐ DYSARTHRIA (**DIFFICULTY SPEAKING**)
- ☐ DYSPHAGIA (**DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING**)
- ☐ DYSTAXIA (**LACK OF COORDINATION**)

3 **REVIEW** all stroke symptoms to assess for **disability**

- Y** **N**
- ☐ ☐ Do your patients consider any of their symptoms to be disabling?
 - ☐ ☐ Are they ambulatory?
 - ☐ ☐ Can they hold or understand a conversation?

4 **RESPOND QUICKLY** if a stroke is suspected

MAKE SURE TO ACTIVATE A STROKE CODE

CALL: _____

*BE FAST was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. © 2011 Intermountain Healthcare. All rights reserved.

References: **1.** Arch AE, Weisman DC, Coca S, Nystrom KV, Wira CR 3rd, Schindler JL. Missed Ischemic Stroke Diagnosis in the Emergency Department by Emergency Medicine and Neurology Services. *Stroke*. 2016;47(3):668-673. **2.** Jauch EC, Kasab SA, Stettler B, et al. Ischemic stroke clinical presentation. Medscape website. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1916852-clinical>. Updated March 28, 2019. Accessed April 4, 2019. **3.** Arora S, Singh R, Goldstein LB. BE-FAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time): Reducing the Proportion of Strokes Missed Using the FAST Mnemonic. *Stroke*. 2017;48(2):479- 481. **4.** Lewandowski C, Santhakumar S. Posterior circulation stroke. Presented at: ACEP; October 2000. Chicago, IL.

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