TRIAGE TOOLs for Acute Stroke <24 hours

Adapted from Toronto Stroke Network & Ambulance Clinical Triage for Acute Stroke Treatment" Zhao et al. Stroke 2018;49:945-951

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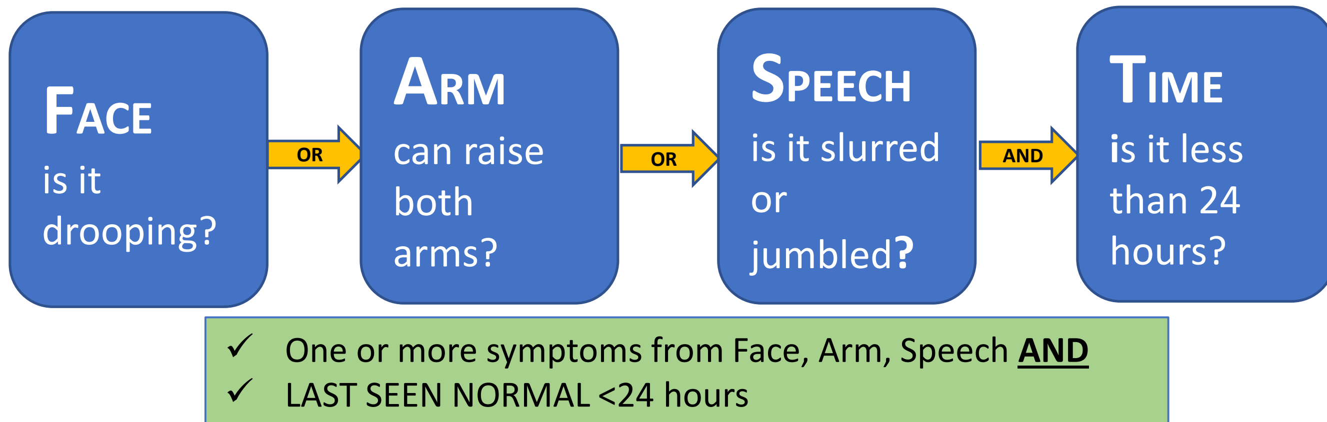
FAST Stroke Screen:



- ✓ One or more symptoms from Face, Arm, Speech **AND**
- ✓ LAST SEEN NORMAL <24 hours

IF ≤ 6 hours, Call Switchboard to Activate Acute Stroke Protocol
IF 6 -24 hours, Complete **ACT-FAST**

ACT-FAST Stroke Screen:

"ARM" (one-sided arm weakness)

Position both arms at 45^0 from horizontal with elbows straight

POSITIVE TEST : One arm falls completely within 10 seconds

For patients that are uncooperative or cannot follow commands:

POSITIVE TEST:

Witness minimal or no movements in one arm & movements in other arm

Proceed if Positive

If **RIGHT** ARM is weak

"CHAT" (Severe language deficit)

POSITIVE TEST: Mute, speaking incomprehensible, or unable to follow simple commands

If **LEFT** ARM is weak

"TAP" (gaze & shoulder tap)

Stand on patient's weak side

POSITIVE TEST : Consistent eye gaze away from weak side

Otherwise

Tap shoulder & call name

POSITIVE TEST : Does not quickly turn head & eyes to you

Proceed if Positive

Call Switchboard to Activate Acute Stroke Protocol

If Acute Stroke Protocol is Activated:
Contact Charge Nurse & ED Physician

Charge Nurse will delegate nurse to take over & locate holding spot

Physician will assess EVT Eligibility

1. Deficits are NOT pre-existing (mild deficits that are now worse are acceptable as true deficits)
2. Onset of symptoms or last seen normal less than 24 hrs
3. Living at home independently with only minor assistance – must be independent with hygiene, personal care tasks, walking (walking aids are acceptable)
4. Patient does NOT have stroke mimics: seizure preceding symptoms, Hypoglycemia = glucose less than 2.8 mmol/L, Active malignancy with brain lesions

Additional Tips:

If both arms are similarly weak, or testing is clearly affected by shoulder problems or pain, notify ED physician

- Try and use clues to guess time last seen well – did someone talk to or call patient?
- For suspected Wake-Up symptoms, did patient get up overnight? Were they normal when first getting up?