Management of patients with transient ischemic attack in the emergency department

Brian Silver, MD, FRCP (C)
Opeolu Adeoye, MD, MS, FACEP

Correspondence to Dr. Silver:
bsilver@lifespan.org
or 
Brian_Silver@brown.edu

All patients who presented to a tertiary care hospital in the United States are eligible for emergency department evaluation and treatment for any acute neurologic event. Patients present with transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) for a variety of reasons, including drug and alcohol abuse, lack of knowledge about TIAs, lack of access to health care, and the nature of the neurologist’s clinical practice, leading to the publication of multiple national guidelines. Despite the known stroke risk after TIA, hospital admissions are no longer routinely reimbursed in the United States. As a result, there is interest in how best to maintain quality care for TIA patients while balancing fiscal responsibilities. Depending on the health system and available resources, clinical protocols for TIA evaluation and management may include facilitated workup and treatment in the hospital, in emergency department observation units, or at specialty TIA clinics. The study by Kapral et al. does not suggest that all TIA patients should be admitted. Indeed, rapid evaluation and treatment regardless of

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From the Comprehensive Stroke Center (B.S.), Rhode Island Hospital; Department of Neurology (B.S.), Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI; University of Cincinnati Stroke Team (O.A.); and Departments of Emergency Medicine and Neurosurgery (O.A.), University of Cincinnati, OH.

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environment in this population-based study seemed to yield similar patient outcomes.

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**REFERENCES**