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Changes in acute ischemic stroke treatment by updated guidelines

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Stroke is the second most common cause of death in worldwide, although has moved down to fifth cause in the United States besides a leading cause of long-lasting injury and disability. For people who have an acute ischemic stroke, the aim of treatment is reperfusion of the brain as quickly as possible. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) Guidelines which indicates a comprehensive, detailed assessment of evidence-based decision for the Early Management of Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke, has been updated on January 24, 2018 containing new and revised recommendations about prehospital care, urgent and emergency evaluation and treatment with intravenous and intra-arterial therapies and inhospital management, including appropriately assigning secondary prevention measures within the first 2-weeks. Clinicians have avoided administering Alteplase to mild stroke patients due to prior research. In the 2018 guidelines, use of Alteplase has expanded. It is recommended for both major stroke patients and if administered to minor stroke patients within a 3 to 4.5 hours window of the stroke event. This guideline recommends increasing the time an AIS patient is eligible for a mechanical thrombectomy from 6 hours to 24 hours; which changed the view of acute stroke treatment. Unluckily, these treatments are not available in many hospitals due to organizational, financial and technical limitations. Many countries clinicians still do not have full coverage by stroke units and the intravenous thrombolysis therapy is not a routine procedure. In addition to scientific advances for acute ischemic stroke, health policies should be developed in a timely manner.

Biography

Turkan ACAR has graduated from Medical School of Cumhuriyet University in 2004. She has completed her neurology residency at Ministry of Health, Diskapi Yildirim Beyazit Education and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey between 2006 and 2010. After her clinical services as a Specialist at Sakarya Yenikent State Hospital she worked as a Neurologist and Instructor at Sakarya University, Medical Faculty, Education and Research Hospital, Turkey and she became an Assistant Professor (2017) at the same institution. She is a Member of World Stroke Organization, Turkish Neurological Society and Turkish Society of Cerebrovascular Diseases.

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