



Neuroscience Network Newsletter

FEATURE STORY

Landmark Meeting – Comprehensive Stroke Centers Come Together to Discuss Changes to the PI for Activase (tPA)

In February 2015, the FDA approved a new PLR or PI for Activase. Several contraindications were removed completely. Some absolute contraindications were moved to warnings and some parameters were removed (BP and lab levels), leaving many questions and concerns from health care providers around the region. As a recognized leader in neuroscience, we understand the importance of evaluating these changes and making recommendations to our network hospitals and other community hospitals in the region.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital convened a meeting with several other Joint Commission Certified Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the region in order to respond to the new FDA label for Alteplase (tPA) in the setting of acute ischemic stroke. A Consensus Statement was written and distributed to all network hospitals in June 2015. The authors included stroke leaders from [Thomas Jefferson University Hospital](#), [Lehigh Valley Health](#) and [Abington Health](#). This statement was submitted to the *Clinical Journal of Neurology and Neurosurgery* for publication.

Disclosure: This statement represents a consensus opinion of leaders in the evaluation and treatment of acute ischemic stroke in the greater Pennsylvania area. We recognize and acknowledge that each case should be evaluated individually and that our experience locally may not be generalizable to other health systems in various areas of the country that may receive this statement. These guidelines are not intended to replace consultation with an experienced vascular neurologist. However, we hope that through collaboration and the sharing of our combined local expertise we will facilitate discussion and planning as healthcare providers seek to deliver the best stroke care for their patients.

FEATURE CASE

Patient Presentation: Male, mid 20's, developed sudden onset of aphasia, right sided hemiplegia at home witnessed by family members. EMS called and patient was brought to [Pottstown Memorial Hospital](#). Emergency Evaluation and Telestroke Consult were completed. NIHSS 19. Patient was eligible for IV tPA, medication was administered at Pottstown and patient was transferred to TJUH INR Unit for consideration of mechanical thrombectomy.

Neurointervention: CT Angiogram demonstrated M1 Thrombus in Left MCA with significant perfusion deficit of MCA territory. Mechanical Thrombectomy was performed using the Solitaire Stent device. A large thrombus was removed from the left middle cerebral artery.

Patient Outcome: The patient neurophysiological signals improved to symmetric following procedure. Patient was brought to Neuro Intensive Care Unit and was discharged on day 7 with an NIHSS of 0.

Key Takeaways: Ideal example of a collaborative approach to treating stroke and evaluating for large vessel occlusion. EMS and Healthcare providers from [Pottstown Memorial Hospital](#) and [Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience](#) all worked together to improve the outcome for this patient. As a result this patient was discharged to home and is back to baseline.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

Congratulations Shore Medical Center – Exceptional Door to Needle Times

Shore Medical Center implemented performance improvements to their stroke program which included a process of direct to CT Scan upon arrival of an acute stroke patient after mini-registration. The last six (6) tPA cases that occurred between June and September 2015 all had a door to needle time of 45 minutes or less. The best case was 28 minutes! No complications of IV tPA were reported. Great team work!

EDUCATION

The Jefferson Neuroscience Network Fall Summit will take place on **Wednesday, October 28, 2015** from 9:30a.m. to 2:30p.m. at Wills Eye Hospital (across street from Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience). Four (4) CMEs & CNEs will be awarded. Registration is open now for this **FREE** program. Reserve your seat online now as there is limited space available. Great topics and Best Practice Panel! http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/Education/Programs/TJUH_CNE/Courses.cfm

The 15th Annual Cerebrovascular (CV) Update is scheduled on **March 17 & 18, 2016** at the *Hyatt at the Bellevue* in Philadelphia. Neuroscience Network Member hospitals receive a discounted conference rate! Come to Center City and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us! The stroke education yearly requirement for core stroke team members can be completed with this conference. Registration will be open soon.

JET PROTOCOL BEST PRACTICES AND TELESTROKE UPDATES

The Patient Record should be entered into StrokeRESPOND and a CT completed before JET consult activation.

Robot should be placed outside patient room until physician beam-in. JET consults should be requested for acute stroke patients that meet the hospital's policy for Acute Stroke (typically last known well time of 12 hours or less). If you would like to schedule a Mock Stroke Alert or telemedicine in-service, please contact [Maureen DePrince at 215.503.9959 \(or maureen.deprince@jefferson.edu\)](mailto:maureen.deprince@jefferson.edu).

StrokeRESPOND TRAINING SITE

A training environment has been set up to allow the staff to practice creating records. Moving forward, the training environment will remain in effect and should be used during training sessions for new and existing staff. We encourage all staff involved in acute stroke alerts in Emergency Departments and responding to Inpatient Stroke to practice entering patient records into the StrokeRespond Training Site. Please visit: <https://clinapps-train.intouchcustomer.com/login>; User Name: *tjtrain*; Password: *tjtrain1*

JEFFERSON NEUROSCIENCE NETWORK SCORECARD

2015 Utilization: January-June (6 months)

- **Telestroke Consults:** 632 telestroke consults provided.
- **tPA Recommended:** 99 times!
- **Overall Treatment Rate for the JNN:** 16%
- **Overall Transfer Rate for the JNN:** 19%

Congratulations to the following hospitals for outstanding treatment rates 2015 YTD:

The following hospitals have a treatment rate of 15% or greater for YTD (this # is determined by the number of JET consults provided and the # of tPA treatments): [Brandywine Hospital](#), [Inspira Woodbury](#), [Jennersville Regional](#), [Kennedy Washington Township](#), [Lower Bucks](#), [Mercy Philadelphia](#), [Mercy Suburban](#), [Pocono Medical Center](#), [Memorial Hospital of Salem County](#) and [Shore Medical Center](#).

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTER (TAC)

Occasionally technical support is needed for either the hardware (robot) or the software application (Stroke Respond). The TAC number can be found on the "face" of the robot, or on the back of the robot. **Contact TAC support at 1-877-484-9119.**