**Alteplase and Acute Ischemic Stroke**

*Guideline and Checklist for Selecting Patients*

(Review this checklist with consulting neurologist)

**General Guidelines for all Alteplase candidates who can be treated within   
4.5 hours of stroke start or last known well.**

**Contraindications:** Any checked box is potential contraindication that should be discussed with a neurologist.

Less than 18 years old

Time to last known normal > 4.5 hours unless additional imaging (MRI) can confirm stroke duration is  
 within Alteplase treatment window of 4.5 hours.

CT with evidence of bleeding or frank hypodensity in area corresponding to symptoms

Uncontrollable hypertension (SBP>185, DBP>110) despite aggressive treatment

Known history of >10 mm brain aneurysm, intra-axial tumor, intracranial hemorrhage

INR greater than 1.7 (if on Coumadin & INR <1.7 consider Alteplase)

Treatment dose of low molecular weight heparin within 24 hours (prophylactic dose okay)

Direct thrombin inhibitor or direct factor Xa inhibitor within 48 hours or unknown last dose.

Major head trauma or intracranial/intra-spinal surgery within 3 months (not absolute)

History strongly suggestive of subarachnoid hemorrhage (not absolute depending on work-up)

**Relative Contraindications:** Treatment should be considered in a case-by-case risk/benefit discussion. Any checked box indicates a relative contraindication that should be discussed with the neurologist.

History of chronic or acquired bleeding diathesis or coagulopathy

Pregnancy

Seizure at onset of stroke symptoms (consider CT Angiogram head)

Major surgery or trauma within 14 days

Previous stroke within 3 months

Mild symptoms or rapidly improving (Alteplase should be considered if symptoms are disabling to the  
 patient at time of treatment decision, regardless of NIHSS score.)

Concurrent MI

Intracranial, extra-axial tumor, known arteriovenous malformation

Glucose less than 50 mg/dl (If after correction there is continued neurologic deficit consistent with acute  
 ischemic stroke, consider Alteplase).

Dural puncture or cardiac catheterization within last 7 days

**Woke with symptoms or unclear time of onset:**

* Consult with a neurologist about thrombolytic treatment options.