



Emergency Medical Services

Partners

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Acute Stroke



Acute stroke is the third leading cause of death in America. Thanks to the development of stroke systems, the care we provide patients stricken with stroke continues to improve. EMS plays a crucial role in minimizing time-to-treatment. Rapid diagnosis, early hospital notification and prompt transport are all keys to minimizing brain injury from ischemic stroke. EMS care en route to the hospital should be supportive, protect airway, oxygen titrated to a SAT of 95%, IV fluids if hypotension. For hypertensive patients do not attempt to lower pressure, which may worsen stroke.

Stroke Pearls

Focus your history on time of symptom onset and when was the last time the patient was symptom free.



Perform **Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale**.*

- Assess for new unilateral arm drift
- Assess speech – slurred or inappropriate words?
- Assess for new facial droop

Contact receiving hospital for 'Acute Stroke Alert' and include following:

- Time of symptom onset
- Description of neurologic deficits (Cincinnati scale)
- Blood glucose level

Early notification to the receiving hospital is essential to ensure the immediate availability of an appropriate in-hospital response.

Transport witness if possible.

* Patients with one of three Cincinnati Stroke Scale findings as a new event has a 72% chance of having a stroke. If all three findings are present, the chance is greater than 85%.

Acute Stroke Resolved with tPA



Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance paramedic Michael Kerr and his EMT partner Charisse Hamilton transported an elderly woman to **John Dempsey Hospital** recently with a sudden onset of garbled speech, but with no weakness or facial droop. Kerr, recognizing that the patient might be suffering from an acute stroke, called in a stroke alert. In the ED, the patient's CAT scan revealed no bleeding, and because Kerr and Hamilton were able to provide an exact time of symptom onset that was within the intervention window, the patient was given the clot buster tPA. The intervention was a success, and the patient was released from the hospital three days later with no residual deficits, able to speak clearly and grateful for the excellent care she received from EMS and the John Dempsey hospital staff.

24/7 CAT Scan Coverage

John Dempsey Hospital has around the clock CAT Scan coverage. EMS is always encouraged to provide early notification for all critical patients.

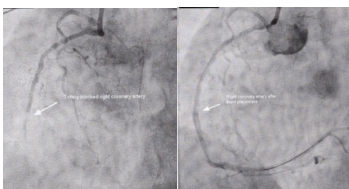


STEMI Kudos

Bristol EMS Paramedic P.J. Roche and his EMT partner Mandi Guertin responded to a female with chest pain.

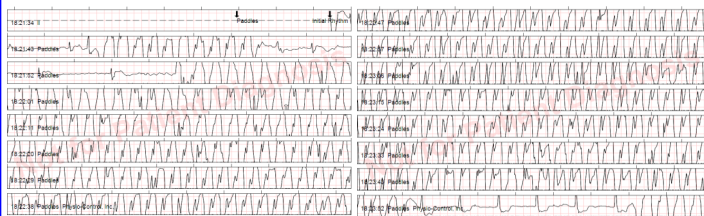


Roche acquired a 12-lead ECG. Recognizing the inferior MI pattern, he immediately called a STEMI Alert to the **John Dempsey Hospital** Emergency Department while still at the patient's home. This gave the hospital a key 20 minute lead time to prepare the cath lab for the patient's arrival. The patient had a 100% occlusion of her right coronary artery, which was successfully stented, restoring perfusion to her heart. Great job! And remember, every extra minute of prehospital notification is a potential minute saved in door-to-balloon time, and quicker reperfusion of the injured heart.



Continuous CPR

The **UCONN Fire Department** paramedics have been practicing their cardiac resuscitation care with an emphasis on maintaining continuous compressions. Above is a picture from recent training exercise in the hospital's simulation laboratory where they practice the transition from manual to machine CPR. The below QA strips show a recent call where CPR was interrupted only briefly to apply the LUCAS CPR machine and then for a rhythm check. Great job by paramedics Brian Little and John Pickert!



UCONN Health Center EMS Web Site

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our web site at:

uconnems.uhc.edu

2013 EMS CME SCHEDULE

Morning

April—No CME

May 15, 2013

June 19, 2013

July—No CME

August—No CME

September 18, 2013

November 16, 2013

December 18, 2013

8:30-11:30 A.M.

Evening

June 12, 2013 (Wednesday)

September 11, 2013 (Wednesday)

December 11, 2013 (Wednesday)

7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.



Due to Parking Restrictions caused by Hospital Construction Morning CMES for May to September will be held at East Farms Fire Department, 94 South Road, Farmington. Our quarterly evening CMES are held in Keller Auditorium in the Main Health Center Building. Morning CMES include general lectures, case reviews and journal article review. Selected additional topics may be added. 3 CME hours are awarded. 1 additional Hour CME will be given for those completing open book quiz on journal articles.

All EMS Responders are Welcome!

For more information contact :

Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu

UCONN Cafeteria Reopened!

The famous UCONN food court has reopened after remodeling.

Open:

Monday – Friday 6:30-20:00

Weekends & Holidays 7:00-19:00



EMS Room Entry Code

We hope you are enjoying our new EMS Lounge. Please help yourself to coffee or tea from our Keurig machine, a cold beverage, fresh fruits or even Lorna Doones when you are next at John Dempsey Hospital. The entry access code to our EMS Lounge is 911.



CONTACT US:

Any questions or suggestions about EMS? Looking for patient follow-up?

Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.

