

TRANSIENT ISCHEMIC ATTACK



WHAT IS IT?

- Same underlying mechanism as an ischemic stroke; with the main difference being the duration of symptoms is significantly less
- In other words, a brief episode of neurological dysfunction caused by ischemia (lack of blood supply) to the brain
- No tissue death occurs



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS



- Clinically presents like a stroke, but can also look like: a seizure disorder, tumor, migraines, or hypoglycemia
- Stroke symptoms – slurred speech, paralysis, overactive reflexes, balance and coordination issues, reduced sensation
- A complete resolution of symptoms occurs within 24 hours

ANATOMY

- Dependent on area of the brain the ischemic attack occurs, but any part of the brain
- Crescendo TIAs – having more than one TIA within a specified time period
 - 2 within 24 hours
 - 3 within 3 days
 - 4 within 2 weeks



DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Seizures hydrocephalus tumors hypoxemia ischemia
- CVA, subsequent or brain bleed after injury



CAUSES

- Imaging – CT/MRI
- Clinical Exam – ABCDD2 prediction rule, which can predict risk of stroke after a TIA
 - A – Age, >60 years
 - B – BP, >140/90
 - C – Clinical presentation: unilateral weakness with or without speech impairment
 - D – Duration of symptoms
 - D – Diabetes
- Above a certain point threshold for the rule, patient is at increased risk for a stroke



DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Can present similarly to stroke, but duration of symptoms for a stroke is much longer



TREATMENT EXAMPLES

- Treating the person as they present with their impairments
- There is a good possibility the duration of symptoms is too short for us to see them during the dysfunctional window before resolution of symptoms
- Education about risk factors and crescendo TIAs



<https://www.aureusmedical.com/npteststudycast>