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Intravenous Thrombolysis

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The administration of intravenous recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rtPA) has been clearly approved the effectiveness in improving neurological outcomes in acute ischemic stroke. However, the majority of patients with acute ischemic stroke are not treated with rtPA because of the variety of reasons, such as narrow time window (< 4.5 hours), age over 80 years, or low NIHSS scores (< 4). In recent, a list of "relative contraindications" was showed in an AHA guideline statement. They defined the "relative contraindication" as "some circumstances-with careful consideration and weighing of risk to benefit- patients may receive fibrinolytic therapy despite relative contraindications". Therefore, the goals of this review were to propose strategies to maximize the use of intravenous rtPA.
