

# TRIAGE ACUTE STROKE

## 1 **RECOGNIZE** the symptoms of stroke, and those that may be easily missed<sup>1\*</sup>

**Ask** if symptom onset was **sudden**<sup>2</sup>

**Determine** the time the patient was last known well<sup>2</sup>

**Look** for common symptoms<sup>3</sup>

**B**ALANCE



**WATCH FOR DIZZINESS OR LOSS OF BALANCE**

**E**YES



**CHECK FOR VISION LOSS OR DOUBLE VISION**

**F**ACE



**LOOK FOR UNEVEN SMILE**

**A**RM



**CHECK IF ONE ARM OR LEG IS WEAK**

**S**PEECH



**LISTEN FOR SLURRED SPEECH OR DIFFICULTY SPEAKING**

**T**IME



**BEGIN TRIAGE IMMEDIATELY**

## 2 **CHECK** any that apply to your patient:

**SYMPTOMS** that may be **EASILY MISSED**<sup>1</sup>

- DIFFICULTY WALKING
- DIZZINESS
- HEADACHE
- NAUSEA/VOMITING
- SEIZURE
- SYNCOPE (**FAINTING**)

**POSTERIOR STROKES** can be more **DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY**<sup>4</sup>

Common symptoms include:

- DIZZINESS
- DIPLOPIA (**DOUBLE VISION**)
- DYSARTHRIA (**DIFFICULTY SPEAKING**)
- DYSPHAGIA (**DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING**)
- DYSTAXIA (**LACK OF COORDINATION**)

## 3 **REVIEW** all stroke symptoms to assess for **disability**

- Y N
- Do your patients consider any of their symptoms to be disabling?
  - Are they ambulatory?
  - Can they hold or understand a conversation?

## 4 **RESPOND QUICKLY** if a stroke is suspected

**MAKE SURE TO ACTIVATE A STROKE CODE**

**CALL:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*BE FAST was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. © 2011 Intermountain Healthcare. All rights reserved.

**References:** **1.** Arch AE, Weisman DC, Coca S, Nystrom KV, Wira CR 3rd, Schindler JL. Missed Ischemic Stroke Diagnosis in the Emergency Department by Emergency Medicine and Neurology Services. *Stroke*. 2016;47(3):668-673. **2.** Jauch EC, Kasab SA, Stettler B, et al. Ischemic stroke clinical presentation. Medscape website. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1916852-clinical>. Updated March 28, 2019. Accessed April 4, 2019. **3.** Aroor S, Singh R, Goldstein LB. BE-FAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time): Reducing the Proportion of Strokes Missed Using the FAST Mnemonic. *Stroke*. 2017;48(2):479- 481. **4.** Lewandowski C, Santhakumar S. Posterior circulation stroke. Presented at: ACEP; October 2000. Chicago, IL.

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