



JAN 02, 2024

OPEN ACCESS



DOI:
dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.rm7vzxeyrgx1/v1

Protocol Citation: Sarawut Kongsut, Atiwat Soontornpun, Niyada Anusasnee 2024. Novel Clinical Prediction Model: Integrating A2DS2score with 24-hour ASPECTS and Red Cell Distribution Width for Enhanced Prediction of Stroke-Associated Pneumonia following Intravenous Thrombolysis. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.rm7vzxeyrgx1/v1>

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Novel Clinical Prediction Model: Integrating A2DS2score with 24-hour ASPECTS and Red Cell Distribution Width for Enhanced Prediction of Stroke-Associated Pneumonia following Intravenous Thrombolysis

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DISCLAIMER

The authors declare no competing interests.

Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: Jan 01, 2024

Last Modified: Jan 02, 2024

PROTOCOL integer ID:
92850

Keywords: ASPECTS, A²DS² score, ischemic stroke, stroke-associated pneumonia, thrombolysis

Funders

Acknowledgement:

Medical Education Center at Saraburi Hospital
Grant ID: MC001-2567

ABSTRACT

Background:

Stroke-associated pneumonia (SAP) is a common leading cause of death during the acute phase. The A²DS² score has been widely used to predict the risk of SAP. However, 24-hour non-contrast computed tomography-Alberta Stroke Program Early CT Score (NCCT-ASPECTS) and red cell distribution width (RDW) were not included in this scale. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the prognostic added value of combining 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS and RDW with the A²DS² score.

Methods:

A retrospective study of thrombolized acute ischemic stroke (AIS) patients from January 2015 to July 2022. Data on A²DS² scores, 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS, and RDW were collected. Three logistic regression models were created: Model A used only the traditional A²DS² score; Model B (A²DS²-c) calculated probabilities using a logistic equation; and Model C (combined A²DS²-MFP) used multivariable fractional polynomial logistic regression and incorporated the A²DS² score, 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS, and RDW. Ischemic brain lesions in the middle cerebral artery area were assessed using 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS after completing 24-hour intravenous thrombolysis.

Results:

Among a cohort of 345 thrombolized AIS patients, 70 individuals (20.3%) experienced SAP. The area under the receiver operating characteristic (AuROC) of 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS and RDW were 0.841 and 0.621, respectively. The combined A²DS²-MFP calculation was significantly superior to the traditional A²DS² score and A²DS²-c calculation (AuROC 0.917 vs. 0.880, $P=0.026$, and 0.917 vs. 0.888, $P=0.024$).

Conclusion: This study found that the 24-hour NCCT-ASPECTS and RDW enhanced the predictive value of the A²DS² score for SAP after IV-tPA. The combined A²DS²-MFP model performed excellently in predictive performance, offering robust early SAP detection and potentially improving patient survival. Implementing this novel model in resource-constrained clinical settings could aid clinicians in effective monitoring, enabling risk stratification to guide clinical management.

ATTACHMENTS

[Protocol.pdf](#)

- 1 Novel Clinical Prediction Model: Integrating A²DS² score with 24-hour ASPECTS and Red Cell Distribution Width for Enhanced Prediction of Stroke-Associated Pneumonia following Intravenous Thrombolysis