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Abstract

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and the most common cause of complex disability in Taiwan. The annual age-standardized mortality rate of stroke is steadily decreasing in recent decades. Standard treatment for acute ischemic stroke in Taiwan is following international guidelines and recommendations. The treatment protocol involves the following steps:

- 1) Early Recognition and Assessment: Rapid recognition of stroke symptoms and early activation of emergency medical services (EMS) is crucial to ensure timely evaluation and treatment.
- 2) Thrombolytic Therapy: Intravenous thrombolytic therapy with tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) is considered the standard of care for eligible patients with acute ischemic stroke within 4.5-hour time window.
- 3) Mechanical Thrombectomy: For certain patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO), endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) may be considered within 8-hour time window. This procedure involves using a catheter to physically remove the blood clot from the blocked artery.
- 4) Supportive Care: including close monitoring, blood pressure control, prevention of complications, and rehabilitation.
- 5) Secondary Prevention: After the acute phase, it's essential to address and manage risk factors that may have contributed to the stroke to prevent future occurrences.