

Influence of intravenous heparin therapy in patients with progressive stroke and crescendo transient ischemic attacks

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Abstract

Background: Progressing stroke (PS) and Crescendo Transient Ischemic Attacks (CTIA) are generally accepted although unproven, indication for urgent anticoagulation and there remains evidence-free practice of intravenous heparin therapy in these patients. **Methods:** Consecutive patients PS and CTIA admitted in Ghaem hospital, Mashhad during 2007-2008 enrolled in a prospective observational study. PS and CTIA patients underwent intravenous heparin therapy 1000 units per hour for 7 days without bolus dose. PS and CTIA patients who had a contraindication of intravenous heparin therapy received 100 mg Aspirin per day. Early clinical course including improvement, stabilization, deterioration and development of residual stroke was evaluated in two therapeutic groups of PS and CTIA patients. **Results:** 170 PS patients (102 males, 68 females) with mean age 60.4 ± 12.3 years and 111 CTIA patients (60 males, 51 females) with mean age 60.1 ± 6.8 years were investigated. 151 PS and 15 CTIA patients received short period intravenous heparinization. Distribution of subtypes of early clinical course between two therapeutic groups of PS and CTIA patients was significantly different; $\chi^2 = 10.487$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.006$ and $\chi^2 = 6.772$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.030$ respectively. Distribution of residual stroke in two therapeutic groups of PS and CTIA patients was not significantly different; $\chi^2 = 1.443$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.23$, $OR = 0.007$ (0.212-1.462) and $\chi^2 = 1.01$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.310$, $OR = 0.617$ (0.24-1.587) respectively. **Conclusion:** PS and CTIA patients who received short period intravenous heparin therapy have significantly more probability of improvement and less probability of deterioration in their early clinical course.

Reaxys Database Information

Author keywords

Attacks; Heparin; Ischemic; Progressive stroke; Transient

Indexed Keywords

EMTREE drug terms: acetylsalicylic acid; heparin

EMTREE medical terms: adult; anticoagulant therapy; article; clinical trial; controlled clinical trial; controlled study; deterioration; disease course; drug effect; ecchymosis; female; hematuria; heparinization; human; major clinical study; male; observational method; probability; prospective study; stroke; transient ischemic attack

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Drug tradename: aspirin.

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