

Modified Accelerated Infusion Thrombolysis and Heparinization Approach in Acute Ischemic Stroke Reocclusion

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Abstract

Acute stroke ischemic has a sudden onset. A 48 years old male was admitted to ER with estimated 30 minutes-60 minutes onset acute ischemic stroke. Firstly, he received a standardized dosage of alteplase. Unfortunately, reocclusion occurred after thrombolysis finished. He received another thrombolysis and heparinization without any side effects from thrombolysis during hospitalization.

Keywords: Alteplase; Heparinization; Thrombolysis; Acute ischemic stroke; Reocclusion

Introduction

A 48 years old male was responded by EMT on 16th November 2021 with an estimated 30 minutes-60 minutes loss of consciousness history. EMT arrived with the patient in the recovery position. The patient could not speak nor move his right arm and leg. No history of seizure, vomiting or headache before this.

Ample: No allergic, no medication, no history of chronic disease(s), last meal within 2 hours before the loss of consciousness, he has a history of domestic travelling 2 days prior.

The primary survey of this patient was clear. Despite he has aphasia, he was fully responsive and cooperative.

His vital signs presented with blood pressure 170/110 mmHg (left arm), heart rate 95 bpm sinus, respiratory rate 18 times per minute, SpO₂ 99% on room air and blood glucose result was 139 mg/dL.

From the physical examination, he presented with aphasia and an absence of motor function in his right limbs and face.

He was treated with 30 degrees of head elevation, 2 litres of oxygen despite SpO₂ result and maintenance intravenous fluid drips.

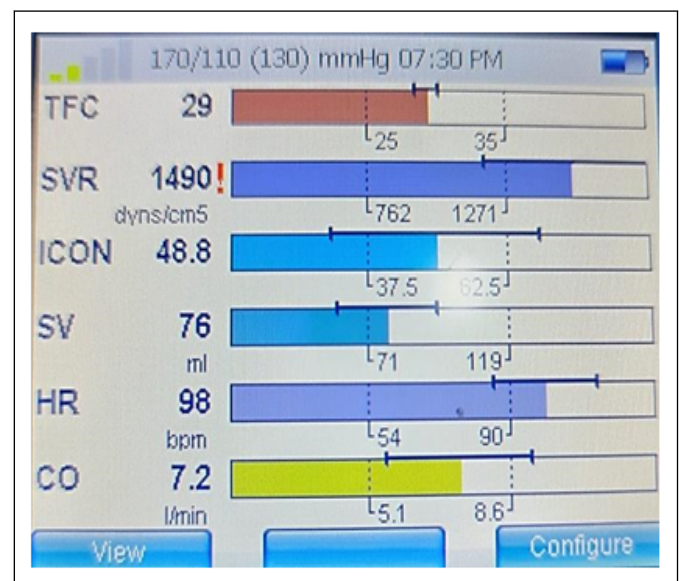


Figure 1: Electrical cardiometer on arrival.

Arriving in the emergency room, his blood was withdrawn for complete blood count, renal function test, coagulation profile (APTT, PT, D-Dimer), Lipid profile and covid19 screening test. He was also sent immediately to the radiology department, running a non-contrast routine brain CT scan examination. Besides vital signs and 7 leads ECG monitor, he was also monitored by an electrical cardiometer which show his hemodynamic was optimal.

HEMATOLOGY			
Haemoglobin (HB)	15.0	13.5 - 18.0	g/dl
Leukosit	7.77	4.00 - 10.50	10 ³ /μL
Eritrosit	5.04	4.70 - 6.00	10 ⁶ /μL
Thrombosit	332	150 - 450	10 ³ /μL
Hematokrit	45.1	42.0 - 52.0	%
MPV	7.9	6.0 - 9.5	fL
RDW	13.6	11.5 - 14.0	%
Nilai Nilai MC			
MCV	89.5	78.0 - 100.0	fL
MCH	29.8	27.0 - 31.0	pg
MCHC	33.3	30.0 - 35.0	g/dL
Hitung Jenis			
Eosinofil	1.5	1.0 - 3.0	%
Basofil	0.4	0.0 - 1.0	%
Neutrofil	51.9	50.0 - 70.0	%
Limfosit	39.3	20.0 - 40.0	%
Monosit	6.9	2.0 - 8.0	%
COAGULATION			
Masa Prothrombin			
Masa Prothrombin / PT	*	15.2	11.7 - 15.1 detik
INR		1.02	2.0-2.5 Pre-treatment of DVT 2.0-3.0 Treatment of DVT PE 3.0-4.5 Recurrent DVT PE
Control		15.9	12.5 - 17.0 detik
APTT		34.3	28.6 - 42.2 detik
Control		35.1	28.0 - 39.0 detik
D - Dimer		0.17	<0.5 ug/ml
KIMIA			
RENAL FUNCTION			
Urea		30	13 - 43 mg/dl
Creatinine	*	0.83	0.90 - 1.30 mg/dl
ELECTROLYTES			
Natrium		138	135 - 147 mmol/l
Kalium		4.10	3.50 - 5.50 mmol/l
Chloride	*	114	94 - 111 mmol/l
LIPID PROFILE			
Total Kolesterol		180	<200 mg/dl
Triglycerida	*	167	<150 mg/dl
HDL Kolesterol	*	40	>=60 mg/dL
LDL Kolesterol		140	<=150 mg/dL
Ratio Chol Total:HDL		4.5	<=4.5 mg/dl

Figure 2: Laboratorium result.

As the CT scan didn't show any bleeding, he was planned to receive thrombolysis therapy. Informed consent was obtained while preparing thrombolysis.

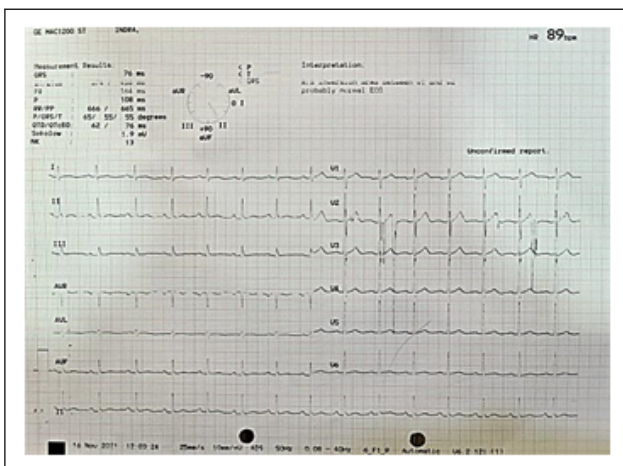


Figure 3: ECG on arrival shows sinus rhythm.

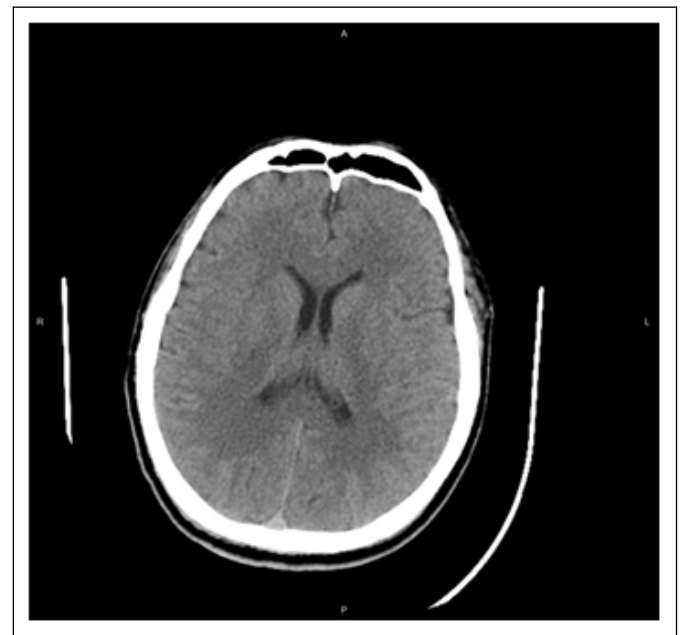


Figure 4: Non-contrast routine brain CT scan examination during admission.

In the first plan, he was planned to receive a standardized dosage of alteplase for thrombolysis. Using his estimated body weight and last bodyweight measurement history [1].

He received a total of 72 mg alteplase (0.9 mg/kg for 80 kg estimated body weight) 10% of the total dosage was administrated intravenously within 1 minute while 90% of the total dosage was dripped intravenously for 60 minutes. Thrombolysis was started estimated 60 minutes-90 minutes onset.

Thirty minutes after starting thrombolysis, his language and motor function had improved. He had no deterioration or side effects after thrombolysis. However, reocclusion was suspected as aphasia and loss of motor function at 68th minutes.

He had immediately received another 28 mg of alteplase infusion dripped for 2 hours. To prevent another reocclusion, he also received 15 i.u./kg/hour heparin for 3 hours.

While 6 hours receiving thrombolysis continued with heparin, aphasia still occurs while motor function fully recovers and no side effect within the treatment.



Figure 5: Motor function recovers after thrombolysis.

He was transferred to ICU for further observation. Beside his slow environment recognition, he shows no other motor function deterioration or side effects of thrombolysis while in ICU, he was transferred to the ward and discharged by the third day of hospitalization.

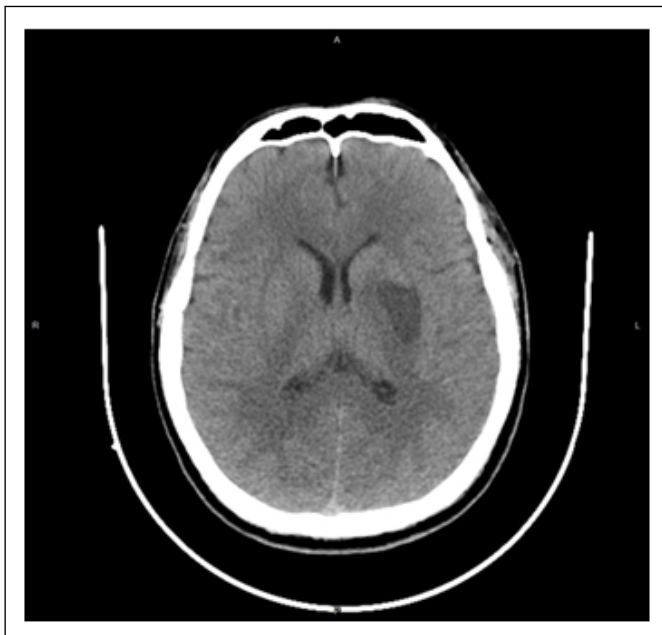


Figure 6: Non-contrast routine brain CT scan examination 3 days after hospitalization.

The CT scan shows infarction around ventral stream which explain his slow response. Without intracranial hemorrhage or bleeding sign occurs after 3 days of hospitalization.

Discussion

Only intravenous thrombolysis with recombinant tissue Plasminogen Activator (rtPA) has proven to be effective for the treatment of ischemic stroke within 4.5 hours of the onset of symptoms. IV rtPA for recanalizing has a 30% to 40% success rate while reocclusion occurs in $\approx 20\%$ to 30% of patients. More than half of ischemic stroke patients who received rtPA remain disabled at 3 months. Intravenous thrombolysis alone remained recommended by many guidelines [2-4].

However, in this case, IV rtPA alone was almost ineffective in treating acute ischemic stroke. I was trying to treat the patient by modifying accelerated infusion thrombolysis used in treating acute myocardial ischemic. In this modified thrombolysis, I started the standardized alteplase dosage, 10% of 0.9 mg/kg of alteplase being bolus intravenously and continued 90% was being dripped intravenously. As the maximum recommended thrombolysis dosage for acute ischemic stroke is 90 mg of alteplase, so the rest of alteplase was dripped intravenously for 2 hours. I also give anticoagulation after thrombolysis due to the previous reocclusion.

In my opinion, thrombolysis using the recommended dosage alteplase to this patient was almost successful. Suspected reocclusion was happened 8 minutes after thrombolysis. So the patient was planned to have another thrombolysis drip. To prevent another reocclusion, I consider heparin following thrombolysis instead of using low molecular heparin as anticoagulation due to its shorter half-life. In case bleeding occurs, heparin can be stopped as early as possible. Thrombolysis in this patient was started within 60 minutes -90 minutes onset and his NIHSS was 18 points at admission. He was at higher risk of reocclusion according to the predictor reocclusion study [5]. Despite fully motor function recovered, environment recognition still occurs in this patient. However, he also doesn't show any intracranial hemorrhage from combining anticoagulation following thrombolysis. These are supported by the CT scan prior to discharge [6].

Conclusion

Recommendation against antithrombotic agents in thrombolysis for acute ischemic stroke needs to be reconsidered because improving IV rtPA is still a challenge today. Option for shorter half time anticoagulation, early anticoagulation initiation for high-risk reocclusion patients after rtPA and shorter duration anticoagulation drip might prevent bleeding while improving reocclusion after thrombolysis for acute ischemic stroke.

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