

This pathway is intended to evaluate children with acute stroke-like symptoms where rapid diagnosis and supportive care are thought to improve neurological outcome. There are many stroke "mimics" that are potentially serious neurological disorders including: meningitis, encephalitis, demyelinating disorders, brain tumors. etc. More common mimics including migraine, focal seizure with Todd's paralysis, etc. Continue to consider these conditions as you evaluate the patient.

## **Inclusion Criteria**

This clinical pathway is designed for children with symptoms of acute stroke present for < 48 hours who present to the ED or when stroke is acutely suspected in the hospital. Children with suspected transient ischemic attack (TIA) should also have this rapid evaluation.

## **Exclusion Criteria**

- Neonates (see NeuroNICU pathway) and children with stroke symptoms for > 48 hours.
- If a child has stroke-like symptoms in the clinic, transfer immediately to the Peds ED. Do not perform an acute stroke evaluation from clinic.

## **Care Teams & Warnings**

- \*Activate the Rapid Response Team AND a Pediatric Stroke alert if the suspected stroke occurs while hospitalized and not already in the ICU or ED.
- ➤ Children with hemorrhagic stroke or large ischemic strokes are at risk for increased intracranial pressure.
- When at all possible, try to avoid sedation. If required, primary team evaluates for moderate sedation, discusses feasibility with neuro. Neuro faculty will then discuss with Anesthesia faculty as needed.
- Supportive care: NPO, maintenance IV fluids 0.9% NS (with D5 if <2 yrs) HOB flat, normotension, normoglycemia, normothermia. Treat seizures if they occur.

## REFERENCES

- Ferriero D.M. et al. (2019). Management of Stroke in Neonates and Children A Scientific Statement From the American Heart/ Stroke Association. 50(3), e51-e96.
- Monagle, P., et al. (2012). Antithrombotic therapy in neonates and children: Antithrombotic Therapy and Prevention of Thrombosis, 9th ed: American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines. Chest, 141(2 Suppl), e737S–801S.
- > Powers W.J. et al. 2018 guidelines for the early management of patients with acute ischemic stroke. 49(3):e46-e110.