Managing Hyperglycemia in Acute Ischemic Stroke Patients

To the Editor:

The guidelines for the early management of adults with ischemic stroke1 published in the May 2007 issue of Stroke offer new recommendations regarding the management of hyperglycemia in this population. This is a very common problem, occurring in about one-third of nondiabetic and in most diabetic stroke patients,2 so the care of large numbers of people will be influenced by these recommendations. We agree with the authors that this is an important issue and recognize that the recommendations are largely consensus recommendations (Grade C) due to a lack of evidence. Despite mounting evidence in critically ill patients,3 there remains a dearth of information related to efficacy of specific glucose-lowering interventions in ischemic stroke. Among critically ill patients, diabetics respond to tight glucose control differently and may be harmed rather than benefiting3; we do not know whether this is true of stroke patients. We therefore would encourage the readership to maintain clinical equipoise as the stroke community works to complete the clinical trials that will hopefully clarify the risk benefit ratio of various treatments in the hyperglycemic acute ischemic stroke population.

Sources of Funding

Drs Johnston, Hall and Bleck are supported by NIH-NINDS R01 NS050192, the Glucose Regulation in Acute Stroke Patients (GRASP) Trial.

Disclosures

None.

Karen C. Johnston, MD, MSc
Department of Neurology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va

Christiana E. Hall, MD, MS
Department of Neurology
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Ga

Thomas P. Bleck, MD, FCCM
Department of Neurology
Northwestern University
Evanston Ill


Managing Hyperglycemia in Acute Ischemic Stroke Patients
Karen C. Johnston, Christiana E. Hall and Thomas P. Bleck

Stroke. 2007;38:e137; originally published online September 13, 2007;
doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.107.495804
Stroke is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2007 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0039-2499. Online ISSN: 1524-4628

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the
World Wide Web at:
http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/38/11/e137

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Stroke can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Stroke is online at:
http://stroke.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/