ACT-FAST

ACT-FAST is a large vessel occlusion screening tool utilized for anterior circulation strokes. It is a two step process that provides a positive or negative result by assessing for one-sided weakness, language deficit, gaze preference or hemi-neglect.

Step three guides clinical decision making in the eligibility for Endovascular Treatment (EVT). Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Physicians can preform the ACT-FAST screening

ACT-FAST Assessment

Step One

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Proceed if POSTIVE

If negative STOP

Notify ED Physician and continue with usual care

ARM
Unilateral Arm Weakness

Position both arms with elbows straight (45 degrees if supine, 90 degrees if sitting)

Positive Screen:
· One arm falls completely within 10 seconds
· For patients who are uncooperative or cannot follow commands: if you witness minimal or no movement in one arm and normal movement in the other

Step Two

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Proceed if POSTIVE

If negative STOP

Notify ED Physician and continue with usual care

Unilateral **RIGHT** arm weakness?

CHAT
Severe Language Deficit

Ask patient to repeat a phrase or perform simple tasks

Positive Screen:
· Patient is mute, speaking gibberish and/or incomprehensible
· Patient is unable to follow simple commands

Unilateral **LEFT** arm weakness?

TAP
Gaze and Shoulder Tap Test

Stand on patients weak side while assessing

Positive Screen:
· Patient has consistent gaze away from weak side
· Patient does not quickly turn head/eyes to you when shoulder tapped twice and first name called

Step Three

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If POSTIVE, potential LVO

Eligibility for EVT

Positive screen: *(if all criteria met)*
· Deficits are NOT pre-existing (mild deficits now worse are acceptable as true deficits)
· Living at home independently with only minor assistance – must be independent with hygiene, personal care, walking (walking aids not included)
· Does NOT have stroke mimics: seizure preceding symptoms, hypoglycemia (glucose less than 2.8 mmol/L), active malignancy with brain lesions