

Last Known Well

Last known well (LKW) is defined as the time at which the patient was last known to be seen without the signs and symptoms of the current stroke or was at their baseline state of health. It is NOT when the person was found to have stroke symptoms.

Importance

- LKW is the single most important piece of information in determining if a patient is a candidate for acute stroke treatments
- Acute stroke treatments are extremely time sensitive
- Treatment time windows are 0-4.5 hours for IV thrombolysis and 0-24 hours for endovascular treatment

How to Assess

You need to be creative in your inquiry by asking the patient and/or family the following questions to obtain the LKW time:

- When did you see them last?
- When did you talk to them last?
- What were they doing last?
- What do they normally do at that time of day? Or earlier?
- Did you notice anything indicating that they were taking part in their normal daily routine?

Wake Up Stroke

Wake up stroke is defined as the situation where a patient awakens with stroke symptoms that were not present prior to falling asleep.

- Ask if the patient got up over the night?
- Were they at their baseline state of health when they got up?

For a person who was at their baseline health before they went to sleep and then woke up with stroke symptoms, the LKW time is the time at which they were last seen before they went to sleep, NOT when they woke up.

Source: strokebestpractices.ca
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