



RE: Acute Ischemic Stroke/Endovascular Treatment Guidelines and Toolkit

Dear Colleague,

As you know, the 2015 release of the new guidelines for endovascular treatment of acute stroke, changed the treatment landscape for patients with acute ischemic stroke—expanding these guidelines with the efficacy of endovascular procedures for large vessel occlusions/severe strokes. This changed the paradigm for treating large vessel/severe strokes and has the potential to greatly improve outcomes and stroke mortality.

With that in mind, the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association developed the **Acute Ischemic Stroke Treatment Toolkit**. It is designed to increase your understanding of the guidelines and help identify changes in your clinical approach to improve patient outcomes.

We hope you will find the enclosed documents will help you better:

- Understand the **2015 AHA/ASA Focused Update of the 2013 Guidelines for the Early Management of Patients With Acute Ischemic Stroke Regarding Endovascular Treatment**, specifically the new updates to assess and treat against large vessel occlusions (LVOs)
- Increase your knowledge of screening tools for large vessel occlusions (LVOs)
- Drive the best treatment outcomes by accelerating time to treatment (alteplase (IV r-tPA) and endovascular therapy) within your organization through best practice quality implementation and optimization of the stroke systems of care

We hope that the toolkit provides you with a robust set of materials in advancing the most up-to-date guidelines and practices for your stroke patients.

Sincerely,

Colin P. Derdeyn, MD, FACR
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
Stroke Council Leadership Chairman