

# Triage Acute Stroke

## 1 RECOGNIZE the symptoms of stroke, and those that may be easily missed.<sup>1</sup>

- **Ask** if symptom onset was sudden.<sup>2</sup>
- **Determine** the time the patient was last known well.<sup>2</sup>
- **Look** for common symptoms.<sup>3</sup>

<b>B</b> ALANCE	Watch for dizziness or loss of balance.
<b>E</b> YES	Check for vision loss or double vision.
<b>F</b> ACE	Look for uneven smile.
<b>A</b> RM	Check if one arm or leg is weak.
<b>S</b> PEECH	Listen for slurred speech or difficulty speaking.
<b>T</b> IME	Begin triage immediately.

## 2 CHECK any that apply to your patient.

**Symptoms** that may be **easily missed**.<sup>1</sup>

- Difficulty Walking
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Seizure
- Syncope (**Fainting**)

**Posterior strokes** can be more **difficult to identify**.<sup>4</sup> Common symptoms, include:

- Dizziness
- Diplopia (**Double vision**)
- Dysarthria (**Difficulty speaking**)
- Dysphagia (**Difficulty swallowing**)
- Dystaxia (**Lack of coordination**)

## 3 REVIEW all stroke symptoms to assess for disability.

- Y N
- Do your patients consider any of their symptoms to be disabling?
  - Are they ambulatory?
  - Can they hold or understand a conversation?

## 4 RESPOND QUICKLY if a stroke is expected.

**Make sure to activate a stroke code by calling:**

**MercyOne Connect  
515-643-2071**

\*BE FAST was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST Model implemented by the American Stroke Association.

References: 1. Arch AE, Weisman DC, Coca S, Nystrom KV, Wira CR 3rd, Schindler JL. Missed Ischemic Stroke Diagnosis in the Emergency Department by Emergency Medicine and Neurology Services. *Stroke*. 2016;47(3):668-673. 2. Jauch EC, Kasab SA, Stettler B, et al. Ischemic stroke clinical presentation. Medscape website. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1916852-clinical>. Updated March 28, 2019. Accessed April 4, 2019. 3. Aroor S, Singh R, Goldstein LB. BE-FAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time): Reducing the Proportion of Strokes Missed Using the FAST Mnemonic. *Stroke*. 2017;48(2):479-481. 4. Lewandowski C, Santhakumar S. Posterior circulation stroke. Presented at: ACEP; October 2000. Chicago, IL.