

Brief Neurological Symptoms

TIA, complex migraine, anxiety, embolic event?

Case History

52 year old white male with HT and Migraine+Aura

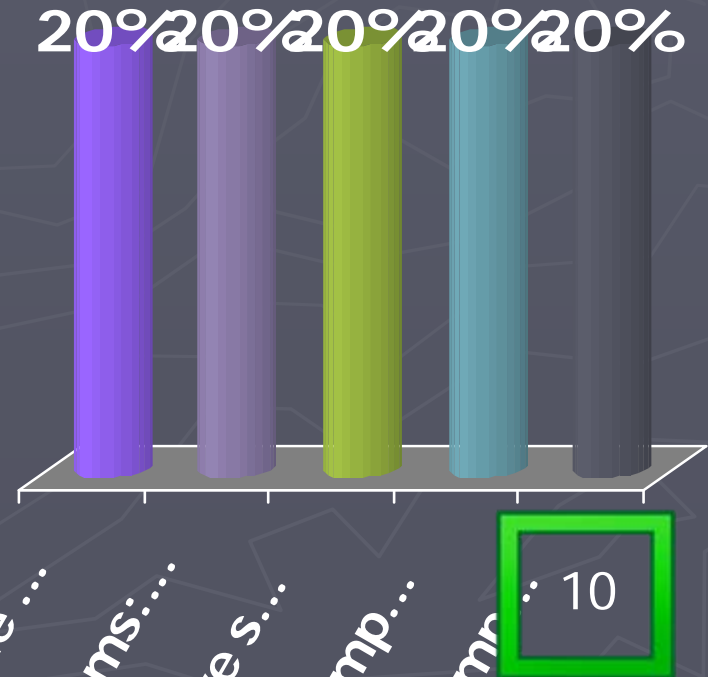
2 years ago: Facial/arm numbness X 1 hour

5 days ago: Aphasia and visual loss X 90 minutes

Meds: Ibuprofen, HCTZD

What would you do?

1. Migraine is the cause: adjust migraine meds
2. TIA symptoms: Add statin and aspirin
3. Hypertensive symptoms: add ACE / ARB
4. TIA/CVA symptoms: get carotid ultrasound
5. TIA/CVA symptoms: get MRI / MRA; Echo



URGENT TIA TESTING PROGRAM

Based upon the strong association between the heart and brain-events, we implemented a multi-disciplinary, out-patient program for prompt cardiovascular testing and triage of neurology testing and consultation.

- ▶ Urgent care patients with neurological symptoms not warranting admission (focal symptoms with resolution; symptoms possibly neurological).
- ▶ Informational brochure with instructions and direct phone access to a dedicated triage person.
- ▶ Urgent out patient cardiac testing
Age <55: Bubble-TTE + pM-mode TCD
Age >55: Bubble-TTE + Carotid US
- ▶ Immediate referral to an imaging-based neurological practice for MRI imaging and consultation



SPAC²E RESULTS

75 PATIENTS

TIME TO TESTING (FROM ER VISIT)

CARDIAC (ECHO, TCD, CUS): 2.3 DAYS (RANGE 1-5)

NEUROLOGY + MRI: 1.7 DAYS (RANGE 1-6)

ABNORMAL FINDINGS	N	%
Abnormal MRI	40	53%
Severe (TCD 5-5+) shunt	22	30%
Atrial fibrillation	6	8%
> 50% carotid stenosis	8	11%
Valvular, CM, CAD	17	23%