



# MIAMI TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO *MEDICAL PROTOCOLS*

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## CEREBRAL VASCULAR ACCIDENT (STROKE)

### Historical Findings

1. Patient is NOT a victim of trauma.
2. Patient may complain of headache, confusion, vomiting, blurred vision, shortness of breath, loss of sensory or motor function or may exhibit sign and symptoms of an altered mental status.

### Physical Findings

1. Altered mental status (occurs often but may not occur at all).
2. Altered neurological exam.
3. Hypertension may or may not be present.

### Differential Diagnosis

1. Craniocerebral / cervical trauma.
2. Meningitis / encephalitis.
3. Hypertensive encephalopathy.
4. Seizure.
5. Migraine.
6. Metabolic problems (including *hypoglycemia*, hyperglycemia or drug overdose).

### Protocol

1. Initiate contact; reassure, and explain procedures.
2. Assess and secure the patient's airway and provide oxygen per the airway, oxygen and ventilation protocol.
3. Perform patient assessment, obtain vital signs and begin cardiac monitoring.



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4. Evaluate neurological condition using the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale:
  - A. Facial Droop (ask patient to show teeth and smile).
  - B. Pronator drift (ask patient to extend arms, palms up, with eyes closed).
  - C. Speech (ask patient to say “the sky is blue in Cincinnati”).
  - D. Document all abnormalities.
5. Determine time of symptom onset as precisely as possible.
  - A. Hospital treatment of strokes has maximal benefit if started within three (3) hours of symptom onset.
6. If patient has abnormalities in the Stroke Scale exam, then transport should be initiated immediately.
7. Establish IV access with a saline lock or 0.9 % normal saline KVO.
8. Test blood glucose, if blood glucose is < 80 mg/dL, administer dextrose 50 % 12.5 gm IV, reassess and re-check blood glucose. If neurologic symptoms do not improve and the blood glucose level is above 80 mg/dL do not repeat administration of dextrose.
9. Notify receiving hospital for possible “Stroke Team” activation.

## FACIAL DROOP EXAM

## PRONATOR DRIFT EXAM



NORMAL



ABNORMAL



NORMAL



ABNORMAL