

Prehospital stroke alerts speed door-to-CT times

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(HealthDay)—Emergency medical services (EMS) prenotification regarding the arrival of patients who have had a stroke allows patients to bypass the emergency department and undergo computed tomography (CT) in a timely manner, according to a study published in the March issue of *Neurosurgery*.

Mandy J. Binning, M.D., from the Capital Institutes for Neurosciences in Trenton and Pennington, N.J., and colleagues examined the door-to-CT and door-to-needle time for 141 prehospital [stroke](#) alert patients who bypassed the emergency department.

The researchers found that in 66 percent of cases the EMS prenotification was accurate, and 89 percent of cases had a neurological diagnosis. The average time from patient arrival to CT imaging was 11.8

minutes. Eighteen percent of the patients received intravenous [tissue plasminogen activator](#), with a median of 44 minutes from arrival to tissue plasminogen activator bolus.

"Trained EMS responders are able to correctly identify patients who are experiencing neurological/neurosurgical emergencies and deliver patients to our comprehensive stroke center in a timely fashion after prenotification," the authors write "The prehospital stroke alert protocol bypasses the emergency department, allowing the patient to be met in CT by the neurological [emergency department](#) team, which has proven to decrease door-to-CT and door-to-needle times from our historical means."

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the medical device industry.

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