ABCD2 Score

The ABCD2 score is a clinical prediction rule used to determine the risk for stroke in the days following a transient ischemic attack (TIA), a condition in which temporary brain dysfunction results from oxygen shortage in the brain).

It usefulness was questioned in a 2015 review as it was not found to separate those who are low from those who are at high risk of future problems.

The high score pick up 87% of people that will have a stroke in the next 7 days but many people in whom it is positive do not have problems.

The ABCD2 score is based on five parameters (age, blood pressure, clinical features, duration of TIA, and presence of diabetes) scores for each item are added together to produce an overall result ranging between zero and seven.

People found to have a high score are often sent to a specialist sooner.[1] Other clinical risk factors, such as atrial fibrillation and anticoagulation treatment, as well as ongoing or recurrent TIA, are also relevant.

The ABCD2 score was proposed in 2007 as a modified version of the ABCD score of 2005 (the ABCD score did not consider the presence of diabetes).

In the largest study based in the emergency department testing the ABCD2 score in an acute setting, the score performed poorly in both high risk and low risk patients. The study found the score to be 31.6% sensitive in high risk patients (score >5) and only 12.5% specific in low risk patients (score ≤2).

ABCD^2 score

	Age	Blood Pressure	Clinical Features	Duration of TIA	Diabetes
no point	<60 years	normal	no speech disturbance and no unilateral (one-sided) weakness	<10 minutes	no diabetes
1 point	≥60 years	raised (≥140/90 mmHg)	speech disturbance present but no unilateral weakness	10–59 minutes	diabetes present
2 points	–	–	unilateral weakness	≥60 minutes	–

- For example, a person aged 60 *(1 point)* with normal blood pressure *(0 point)* and without diabetes *(0 point)* who experienced a TIA lasting 10 minutes *(1 point)* with a speech disturbance but no weakness on one side of the body *(1 point)* would score a *total of 3 points*.

Interpretation

The risk for stroke can be estimated from the ABCD2 score as follows:

Score 1-3 (low)

2 day risk = 1.0%

7 day risk = 1.2%

Score 4-5 (moderate)

2 day risk = 4.1%

7 day risk = 5.9%

Score 6–7 (high)

2 day risk = 8.1%

7 day risk = 11.7%

References

Galvin R, Geraghty C, Motterlini N, Dimitrov BD, Fahey T (August 2011). “Prognostic value of the ABCD² clinical prediction rule: a systematic review and meta-analysis”. Fam Pract 28 (4): 366–76. doi:10.1093/fampra/cmr008. PMID 21486940.