

Malignant middle cerebral artery syndrome

Patients usually present with findings of severe hemispheric stroke (hemiplegia, forced eye and head deviation) often with CT findings of major infarct within the first 12 hours. Most develop drowsiness shortly after admission. There is progressive deterioration during the first 2 days, and subsequent transtentorial herniation usually within 2–4 days of stroke. Fatalities are often associated with: severe drowsiness, dense hemiplegia, age > 45–50 yrs ¹⁾.

The malignant middle cerebral artery syndrome, characterized by [cerebral edema](#) following large anterior circulation ischemic stroke, is a disease entity with high morbidity and mortality that is easy to recognize, but challenging to manage ²⁾

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Wijdicks EFM, Diringer MN. Middle Cerebral Artery Territory Infarction and Early Brain Swelling: Progression and Effect of Age on Outcome. Mayo Clin Proc. 1998; 73:829–836

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Hwang DY, Matouk CC, Sheth KN. Management of the malignant middle cerebral artery syndrome. Semin Neurol. 2013 Nov;33(5):448–55. doi: 10.1055/s-0033-1364211. Epub 2014 Feb 6. PubMed PMID: 24504607.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:50**

