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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Challenges and Outcomes of Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: The Iranian Perspective

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

4 comments · 29 Jul 2024 – 1 Dec 2024

Seyyed Ahmad Hosseinzadeh Reviewer

ACCEPT 29 Jul 2024

The reviewed article with identification code 150667 was examined and evaluated. This article has a suitable and acceptable structure in terms of compliance with writing and composition standards. The presentation of explanations and content in the article review section was desirable. The division of patients into experimental groups and the method of statistical analysis used were also acceptable and standard. The number of references used in the discussion and conclusion section of the article is also satisfactory. Based on these points, it seems that there are no problems preventing the article from being published in this journal, and its publication is unimpeded.

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 29 Nov 2024

The manuscript presents valuable insights into the factors affecting thrombolytic therapy receipt in AIS patients. However, it needs some minor revisions. With some revisions for clarity, depth, and context, it has the potential to contribute meaningfully to the existing literature on stroke management and treatment pathways.

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 1 Dec 2024

Dear EIC,
Thanks to the authors and appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript presents valuable research. But some revisions are needed. The authors should revise it based on the comments. Also, a minor change should be made in the abstract:
A summary of the statistical analysis results should be included in the results section.

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 1 Dec 2024

Dear Author,
Thank you for submitting the article. It needs some revision. Please revise it based on the reviewers' and AE's comments.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:

1. Title:
Comment: The title "Exploring Barriers and Outcomes of Intravenous Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: An Investigation of the Iranian Experience" is generally clear and informative, but it could be improved for conciseness and readability. Suggested alternatives:

- "Barriers and Outcomes of Intravenous Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: Insights from Iran"
- "Challenges and Outcomes of Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: The Iranian Perspective"
- "Barriers to Intravenous Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: An Iranian Study"

Response: Thank you for your thoughtful suggestions. We agree that the title could be more concise and specific. We have revised the title to: *" Challenges and Outcomes of Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Ischemic Stroke: The Iranian Perspective."*

2. Abstract:
Comment: The opening sentence effectively sets the stage but could include a statistic or reference about ischemic stroke occurring earlier in Iran. Also, provide details about the selection process and rephrase "mild stroke progression" to "mild progression of stroke symptoms."

Response: Thank you for your feedback. We have revised the opening sentence to include a supporting statistic and added details about the selection process in the abstract. Additionally, "mild stroke progression" has been rephrased to "mild progression of stroke symptoms" for clarity.

3. Language Use:
Comment: Minor grammatical improvements are suggested, such as revising "due to cautious physician approach" to "due to a cautious approach by physicians."

Response: Thank you for pointing this out. We have corrected this phrase and reviewed the manuscript to address similar grammatical issues for improved clarity and readability.

4. Formatting:
Comment: Ensure consistent formatting throughout the manuscript, particularly in headings and subheadings.

Response: We have reviewed the manuscript and ensured that all headings and subheadings are consistently formatted according to the journal's guidelines.

5. Introduction:
Comment: Consider rephrasing the definition of acute stroke for clarity: "Acute stroke is characterized by the interruption of blood flow to the brain, which can occur due to either a ruptured blood vessel (hemorrhagic stroke) or a blockage caused by a clot (ischemic stroke)."

Response: We appreciate this suggestion and have revised the sentence in the introduction as recommended for better clarity and flow.

6. Discussion of Global Impact:
Comment: Simplify the phrase "prominent contributor to mortality and enduring impairment" to "major cause of mortality and long-term disability."

Response: Thank you for the suggestion. We have simplified the phrase as recommended to improve readability.

7. IV-rtPA Description:
Comment: Specify the time frame for IV-rtPA administration post-stroke onset to emphasize its importance.

Response: We have revised the discussion section to include the time frame for IV-rtPA administration (within 4.5 hours of stroke onset) to underscore its critical importance.

Reviewer 1:

The reviewed article with identification code 150667 was studied and judged. This article has a suitable and acceptable structure in terms of compliance with writing and composition standards. Presentation of explanations and presentation of content in the article review section was desirable, also the division of patients into experimental groups and the method of statistical analysis used were also acceptable and standard. The number of references used in the discussion and conclusion section of the article is also satisfactory. be According to the mentioned cases, it

seems that the studied article has no problem to be published in this journal and its publication is unimpeded.

Response:
Thank you for your positive feedback and for acknowledging the strengths of our manuscript, including its structure, statistical analysis methods, and the adequacy of references in the discussion and conclusion sections. We are pleased that you found the content, methodology, and overall presentation satisfactory. Your encouraging remarks reinforce our confidence in the quality of the manuscript. We appreciate your review and recommendation for publication.

Reviewer 2:
The manuscript presents valuable insights into the factors affecting thrombolytic therapy receipt in AIS patients. However, it needs some minor revisions. With some revisions for clarity, depth, and context, it has the potential to contribute meaningfully to the existing literature on stroke management and treatment pathways.

Response:
Thank you for your positive feedback and for recognizing the potential contribution of our study to the literature on stroke management. We have carefully reviewed your suggestions and made revisions to enhance the clarity, depth, and context of the manuscript. Specifically, we have:

1. Improved the articulation of key findings and their implications in the discussion section.
2. Added contextual information to highlight the relevance of our findings in both local and global settings.
3. Refined the abstract and results sections to ensure clarity and provide a concise summary of statistical analyses.

We believe these changes have strengthened the manuscript and addressed your concerns. We greatly appreciate your thoughtful comments and look forward to your further feedback.

Associate Editor Comment:

Dear EIC,

Thanks to the authors and appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript is a valuable research. But some revisions are needed. Authors should revise it based on comments. Also, a minor change should be done in the abstract: Summary of statistical analysis results should be mentioned in the results section.

Response:

Thank you for your encouraging comments and constructive feedback. We have carefully revised the manuscript to address your suggestions. Specifically, we have:

1. Included a summary of the statistical analysis results in the results section of the abstract to provide clarity and highlight key findings.
2. Reviewed the manuscript comprehensively to ensure all other comments and areas for improvement are addressed.

We appreciate your guidance and hope that the revisions meet your expectations.

2 Revision 1

2 comments · 23 Dec 2024 – 23 Dec 2024

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 23 Dec 2024

Dear Editor-in-Chief,
I wish to express my appreciation to the authors for their efforts and commend the researchers for their valuable manuscript. The errors have been corrected successfully.

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 23 Dec 2024

Dear Authors,
Thank you for paying attention and responding to the reviewer's comments.