

Panel: Ethical Issues in Stroke Care

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Panelists

- Diane Chappuis, MD: Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute
- Kari Olson, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC: Fairview Southdale Hospital
- Joseph Sicora, MD: North Memorial Medical Health
- Thomas Wyatt, MD, FACEP: Hennepin County Medical Center

Moderator: Megan Hicks, Minnesota Department of Health

Scenario #1

- 68 yo female Pt arrives at a CAH via EMS at 1430; LKW is 1400
- AST is activated and patient is diagnosed with acute ischemic stroke
- NIHSS = 6
- Pt is within the treatment window for IV alteplase
- However, pt is unable to consent & surrogate to consent is not available

Decision to administer IV alteplase

Scenario #2

- 70 yo male found down; unknown LKW and no intervention
- Large left MCA and ACA stroke due to occlusion of the carotid artery
- Pt has no advanced directives, but spoke to multiple family members: no nursing home and does not want to be a “burden” on others
- Pt cannot swallow; densely hemiplegic right side; densely aphasic so cannot express own wishes

Decision to place feeding tube & ongoing IV fluids

Scenario #3

- Surrogate decision makers disregard life limiting prognosis in favor of aggressive treatments
- Patient survives, but in a significantly disabled cognitive state
- Family is heartbroken and disappointed

How do you engage and comfort family?

Scenario #4

- 60 yo female cancer patient
- Pt has a-fib and is at risk for stroke
- Anticoagulation typically prescribed to prevent stroke

Decision to hold anticoagulants? Could result in acute CVA while having limited life expectancy

Scenario #5

- 69 yo female suffered severe ICH and is now in your ICU
- Patient has lost decisional capacity
- Surrogate decision makers request medical interventions (feeding tube; other forms of life support) against patient's previously communicated wishes

How do care decisions get made? How do you engage family in discussion and decision making?

Scenario # 6

Tell us your
experiences &
questions

Thank you to
our panelists!

A photograph of three King penguins on a beach. The penguin on the left is facing right with its beak open. The middle penguin is facing left with its beak open. The penguin on the right is facing left. The background is a bright, slightly hazy sky. Two overlapping circles are overlaid on the right side of the image: a larger dark blue circle and a smaller green circle below it. The text 'Social Hour' is in white inside the blue circle, and 'Crescent Lounge in hotel' is in black inside the green circle.

Social Hour

Crescent
Lounge in
hotel