

ABCD² score for predicting stroke risk

The ABCD² score is meant to help predict short-term stroke risk after a transient ischemic attack (TIA). It is optimized to predict stroke risk within two days after a TIA, but also predicts risk up to 90 days. Add the points for the total score.

Criteria	Point value
Age \geq 60 years	1
Systolic blood pressure \geq 140/90 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure \geq 90 mmHg	1
Clinical features of TIA (choose one):	
Unilateral weakness	2
Speech disturbance without weakness	1
Duration of TIA (choose one):	
\geq 60 minutes	2
10-59 minutes	1
Diabetes mellitus in patient history	1

Scoring: A score of 0-3 indicates a 1% stroke risk in the next two days, and hospital admission is probably unnecessary without another indication such as new atrial fibrillation. A score of 4-5 carries a 4.1% risk of stroke in two days, and hospital admission is warranted in most situations. A score of 6-7 carries an 8.1% risk of stroke in two days, and hospital admission is essential.

Source: Available online via the National Stroke Association at www.stroke.org/site/DocServer/NSA_ABCD2_tool.pdf

Original article for ABCD² score: Johnston SC, Rothwell PM, Nguyen-Huynh MN, Giles MF, Elkins JS, Bernstein AL, et al. Validation and refinement of scores to predict very early stroke risk after transient ischaemic attack. Lancet. 2007;369:283-92. [PMID: 17258668]