

**INTRODUCTION**

Ischemic stroke is the most common type of stroke, accounting for 87% of all stroke events. Acute Ischemic stroke is an emergency. The time between the onset of symptoms and admission to the emergency department is the most fundamental factor in meeting eligibility requirements for intravenous thrombolysis . Effective thrombolytic therapy relies on timely intervention, and guidelines for recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rtPA) recommend therapy within 3 - 4.5 h after the onset of stroke symptoms . The benefit of intravenous thrombolysis for acute Ischemic stroke decreases continuously over time from symptom onset.

**AIMS / OBJECTIVES**

In this study, we aim to find the causes of delayed presentation of patients to tertiary care hospital after acute Ischemic stroke.

**MATERIALS / METHODS**

The data of all patients of acute Ischemic stroke diagnosed by CT or MRI brain , collected from department of neurology, sevenhills hospital, Visakhapatnam. The data from October 2023 to April 2024 was collected and analysed. The data was collected and compiled in Microsoft excel. To analyse the data, statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 26.0 was used. Among the patients with Ischemic stroke, the cause of delayed presentation is assessed.

Chart Title



- Unaware of stroke symptoms
- Lack of effective transportation
- Waiting for spontaneous improvement
- Alternative treatments
- Refusal to go to hospital
- Lack of family support
- Living alone

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

Among 70 patients studied, 40 were male, 30 were female. causes of delayed presentation to hospital are – unawareness of stroke symptoms in 18 patients, waiting for spontaneous improvement in 11 patients, lack of effective transportation in 12 patients, lack of family support in 8 patients, using alternative treatments in 10 patients, patient's refusal to go to hospital in 9 patients, patients who live alone were 2. Majority of patients are unaware of stroke symptoms. Ambulance services need to be improved , so that delayed presentation to hospital can be minimised. Patients should be educated about stroke symptoms and treatment. The benefit of intravenous thrombolysis for acute Ischemic stroke decreases continuously over time from symptom onset. Some of the patients relied on alternative treatments like ayurvedic medication and branding. Patients with a history of coronary artery disease or heart failure may have better emergency awareness as a result of their previous contacts with medical providers. Patients should be educated that acute ischemic stroke is an emergency and intravenous thrombolysis for eligible candidates prevents morbidity and improves functional outcome.

**CONCLUSION**

Educating people about how to identify stroke and importance of getting treated early , prevents morbidity and mortality. Awareness programmes about stroke among public , should be conducted so as to increase the chances of arrival to hospital in window period.