

# TRANSIENT RIGHT HEMIPARESIS PROGRESSING TO LEFT HEMIPARESIS: CASE REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

- A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a transient episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by focal brain, spinal cord or retinal ischemia without acute infarction, with typical episodes lasting less than 1 hour.
- TIA can be a warning of an impending ischemic stroke with the highest risk in the first few hours and days following TIA.

## CASE REPORT

- The EMS was called for a 58-year-old male who mumbled, had right-sided weakness and was not able to walk.
- 20 minutes after the initial call, when the ambulance arrived to the scene, the symptoms were completely resolved (NIHSS 0).
- 40 minutes after the initial call, during transport, the patient developed left-sided weakness and was not able to speak clearly (NIHSS 9).
- An urgent CT angiography of cerebral arteries was performed immediately upon arrival to the hospital and showed an occlusion of the M2 segment of the right middle cerebral artery.
- Mechanical thrombectomy was not performed due to elongation of the aorta and improvement in the neurological exam (2 hours after the initial call: NIHSS 1).
- During hospitalization, the patient underwent cardiac, neurological and psychiatric workup.
- He was discharged from the hospital 10 days after admission with noticeable left leg and left arm weakness and a flat left nasolabial fold (NIHSS 3).

## CONCLUSION

- TIA is a medical emergency whose symptoms are often already resolved when a doctor sees the patient.
- TIA always requires prompt neurological workup which should always include neuroimaging.
- The risk for a new TIA or ischemic stroke is the highest in the first few hours and days after TIA.
- It is important to investigate and treat risk factors which could cause a new TIA or ischemic stroke.



12.-14. svibnja 2023.  
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