

## **Survivor Story**

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast  
Monday, April 29, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

## **Faculty**

**Amy Herrington, RN, CEN  
Andalusia Regional Hospital**

## **Survivor Story**

- **8:20 a.m.:** 68-year-old female arrives by private vehicle complaining of slurred speech and weakness of left side
  - Patient had been at work and was noted by coworker to be very “tired” acting

## **Survivor Story**

- Coworker suggested patient go home, and upon standing, patient began to have difficulty walking
- She was assisted to private vehicle by coworkers and immediately brought to ED

## **Survivor Story**

- Upon arrival to ED, patient was noted to have slurred speech, expressive aphasia, weakness in left hand
  - Onset of symptoms noted at 8:00 a.m.

## **Survivor Story**

- **8:22 a.m.:** Blood Glucose 109, IV saline lock initiated
- **8:25 a.m.:** EKG shows Sinus Rhythm rate of 64, no ectopy noted
- **8:36 a.m.:** CBC, BMP, PT, PTT, UA all within normal limits

### Survivor Story

- 8:58 a.m.: CT of brain non-contrast shows mild cerebral atrophy, no intracranial hemorrhage, no mass effect
- 9:00 a.m.: NIHSS score 5

### Survivor Story

- 9:10 a.m.: Detailed discussion with patient and family on findings of CT scan
  - Recommendation made to family for administration of tPA
  - Risks and benefits explained to them, and questions answered

### Survivor Story

- 9:15 a.m.: Patient and family verbalized consent for tPA
- 9:54 a.m.: Alteplase 0.9mg per kg administered via saline lock in left hand
  - 10% given over 1 minute bolus, with remaining 90% given over 1 hour via IV pump infusion

### Survivor Story

- 10:04 a.m.: Neuro check reveals continued slurred speech, but increased strength in left hand
- 10:30 a.m.: Neuro check reveals normal speech and equal grips bilaterally
- 10:57 a.m.: Alteplase infusion complete, no adverse reaction noted

### Survivor Story

- Patient observed in ED with Neuro checks and vitals every 15 minutes x 2 hours
  - No acute changes noted during this observation time
- 12:00 p.m.: Repeat NIHSS 0
- 12:06 p.m.: Patient transported to ICU for continued monitoring

### Survivor Story

- ICU course uneventful
- 10:00 a.m. next morning: patient discharge home with family
  - Outpatient order for physical therapy to improve grip strength in left hand
    - Grip strength equal, trouble grasping small items

### **Survivor Story**

- **2 weeks post follow-up shows amnesia for 24 hours surrounding onset, but complete resolution of symptoms**