

2018 ED MD STROKE EDUCATION

Objectives

- Identify large vessel occlusion (LVO) symptoms
- Identify posterior circulation stroke symptoms

Recognizing LVO

- NIHSS ≥ 6
- G-FAST score:
 - Face asymmetry
 - Arm weakness (when held out for 10 seconds)
 - Speech difficulty (speech output and/or comprehension)
 - Time (get to the ED/ call 911)
 - + G – best gaze
 - Assess for gaze deviation



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» One of the most sensitive clinical signs suggesting large vessel occlusion (LVO)

- High sensitivity for G-FAST score ≥ 3 ; other scoring systems similar sensitivities
- Other symptoms of LVO: neglect, hemianopsia



Normal view



Neglect and Anosognosia



Posterior Circulation Stroke Symptoms

- Often missed or misdiagnosed, sometimes dismissed by patients
 - Vision loss (usually both eyes- hemianopia, quadrantanopia) “missing left side of the page”, “bumping into things on one side”
 - Ataxia
 - » limb ataxia
 - Gait ataxia
 - » veering or “being pulled” in one direction
- Brainstem symptoms, especially if multiple
 - Cranial nerve abnormalities
 - » typically unilateral
 - » diplopia
 - Eye movement abnormality
 - » distinguish from strabismus, etc.
 - Dysphagia/dysarthria
 - Crossed findings
 - » e.g., LEFT face, RIGHT arm and leg numbness; RIGHT eye palsy, LEFT side weakness
 - Vertigo with focal deficits

