Supplemental Table 1: Intention-to-treat analysis

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|  | **PROTECT (n=46)** | **Non-BGC + distal aspiration (160)** | **p value** |
| **Sex (% female)** | 48% | 59 % | 0.06 |
| **Median Age (Min; Max)** | 76 (43; 94) | 78 (41; 94) | 0.854 |
| **Median NIHSS at admission (Min; Max)** | 16 (3; 24) | 15 (3; 30) | 0.805 |
| **Median mRS at admission (Min; Max)** | 5 (1; 5) | 5 (1; 5) | 0.835 |
| **i.v. rtPA (%)** | 65% | 60% | 0.424 |
| **Occluded vessel** |  |  | **0.045** |
| *ICA carotid terminus* | 39% | 25% |  |
| *MCA-M1* | 50% | 57% |  |
| *MCA-M2* | 11% | 18% |  |
| **Median time from symptom onset to recanalization (Min; Max)** | 258 minutes (150; 561) | 278 minutes (120; 780) | 0.954 |
| **Median time from groin puncture to recanalization (Min; Max)** | 31 minutes (10; 188) | 40 minutes (5; 265) | **0.012** |
| **Number of maneuvers †** | 2.1 +/- 1.7 | 2.8 +/- 2.4 | 0.057 |
| **First pass recanalization (%)** | 48% | 35% | 0.135 |
| **final oTICI** |  |  | **<0.001** |
| *3* | 65% | 39% |  |
| *2b* | 35% | 39% |  |
| *2a* | 0% | 10% |  |
| *1* | 0% | 0% |  |
| *0* | 0% | 12% |  |
| **Successful recanalization (TICI 2b/3** | 100% | 78% | **0.001** |
| **Median NIHSS at discharge (Min; Max)** | 9 (0; 42) | 9 (0; 42) | 0.287 |
| **ΔNIHSS**  | 7 | 5 | 0.243 |
| **Median mRS at discharge (Min; Max)** | 3 (0; 6) | 4 (0; 6) | 0.147 |
| PROTECT: PRoximal Balloon Occlusion TogEther with DireCt Thrombus Aspiration; BGC: Balloon Guide Catheter; NIHSS: National Institute of Health Stroke Scale; mRS: modified Rankin Scale; rtPA: recombinant tissue Plasminogen-Activator; MCA: Middle Cerebral Artery**†**Data are mean +/- SD |