FEASIBILITY AND SAFETY OF MECHANICAL THROMBECTOMY IN STROKE PATIENTS PRESENTING WITH DISTAL ACA OCCLUSIONS – INSIGHTS FROM STAR


Background Mechanical thrombectomy (MT) indications for acute stroke treatment have expanded in the last few years to include medium vessel occlusions. However, limited data is available about the safety and efficacy of MT in the distal anterior cerebral artery (ACA) segments (A2/A3). This study aims to assess the feasibility and outcomes of MT in stroke patients presenting with acute A2 and A3 occlusions in a large multicenter registry.

Methods This is a retrospective analysis from the Stroke Thrombectomy and Aneurysm registry (STAR) which maintains data from 40 stroke centers in the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. We included patients who presented with A2/A3 occlusions and were treated with MT using second-generation thrombectomy devices between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2020. Primary outcome of this analysis was the final modified treatment in cerebral infarction (mTICI) score. Other endpoints included the modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score at 90 days and the rate of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage (sICH).

Results We identified 27 patients who met the inclusion criteria. Median age was 61 (IQR 53-81) years, 15 (55.6%) were female, and 14 (51.9%) were white. A2 segment occlusion was seen in 20 (74.1%) patients and A3 segment in 7 (25.9%) patients. Fourteen (51.9%) in patients received intra-venous tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) prior to MT. Regarding MT technique used, contact aspiration first line (ADAPT) was used in 14 (51.9%) patients, stent retriever first-line was used in 4 (14.8%) patients, and a combination of both techniques was used in 9 (33.3%). Intraaerial tPA was used in 6 (22.2%) patients. Final mTICI ≥ 2B was recorded in 20 (74.1%) patients (13 [48.1%] had mTICI of 2C or 3). Periprocedural complications were seen in 4 (14.8%) patients and sICH occurred in 1 (3.7%) patient. At 90 days, 17 (63%) patients achieved functional independence (mRS 0-2).

Conclusion In this multicenter study, MT for distal ACA occlusions in the A2/A3 segments seem to be feasible and associated with low complication and symptomatic hemorrhage rates. Future studies are needed to compare the functional outcome of MT versus medical management for stroke patients presenting with A2/A3 occlusions.