
Tenecteplase vs Alteplase:

out with the old and in with the new?

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UTSW Brain Summit

Disclosures

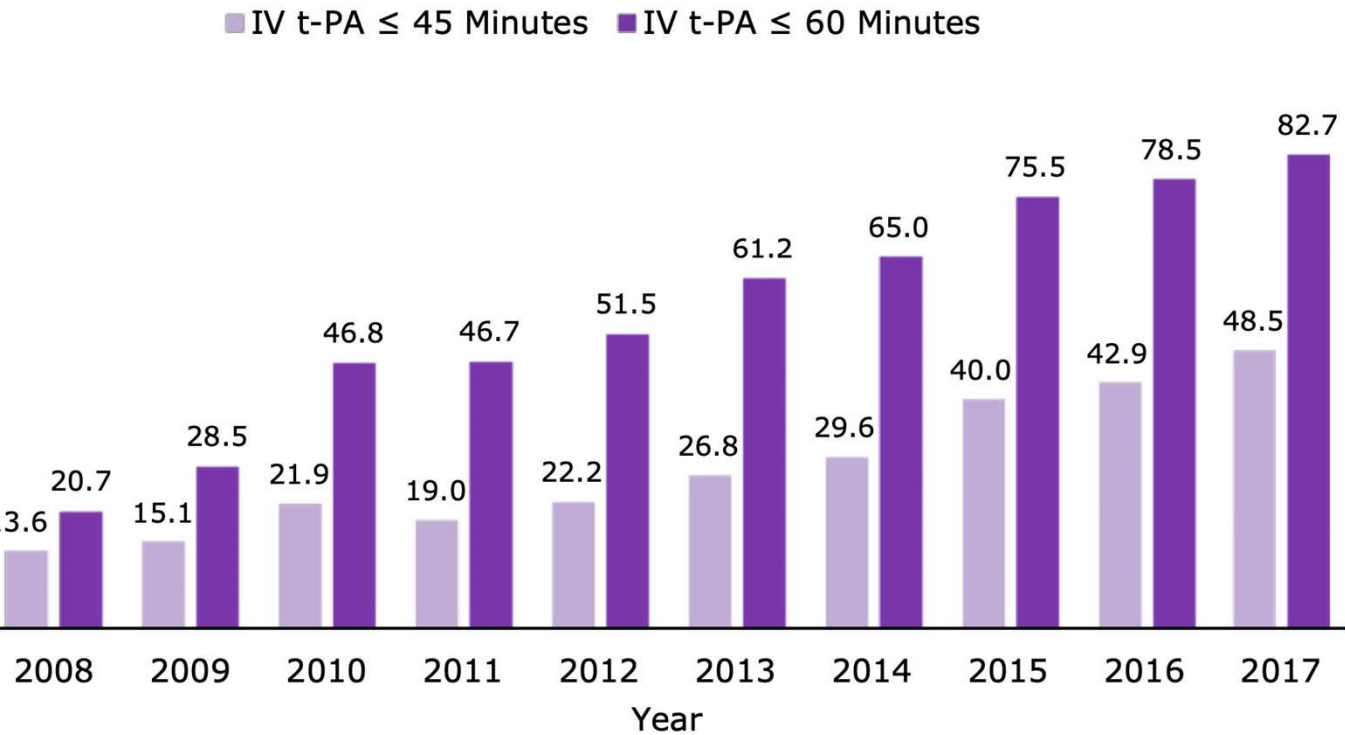
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One Star Stroke Consortium funded research in Tenecteplase Utilization in Texas

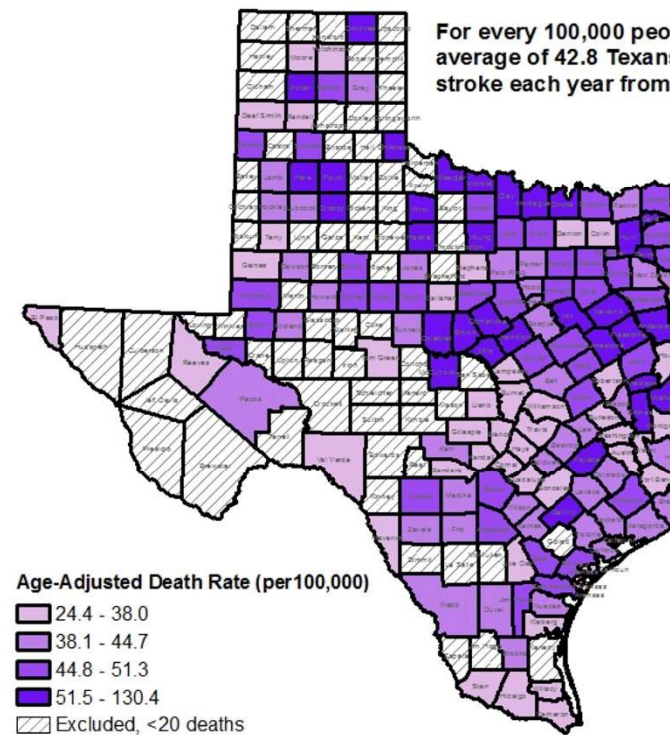


Thrombolysis

- First approved therapy for acute ischemic stroke in 1996
- In 2012-2018, 11.8% of ischemic strokes treated with tPA
- Improved functional outcomes and decreased mortality



16. TREATMENT WITH IV T-PA WITHIN 45 MINUTES AND WITHIN 60 MINUTES OF ARRIVAL AMONG ADULT ISCHEMIC STROKE CASES, BY YEAR, 2008-2017.



alteplase

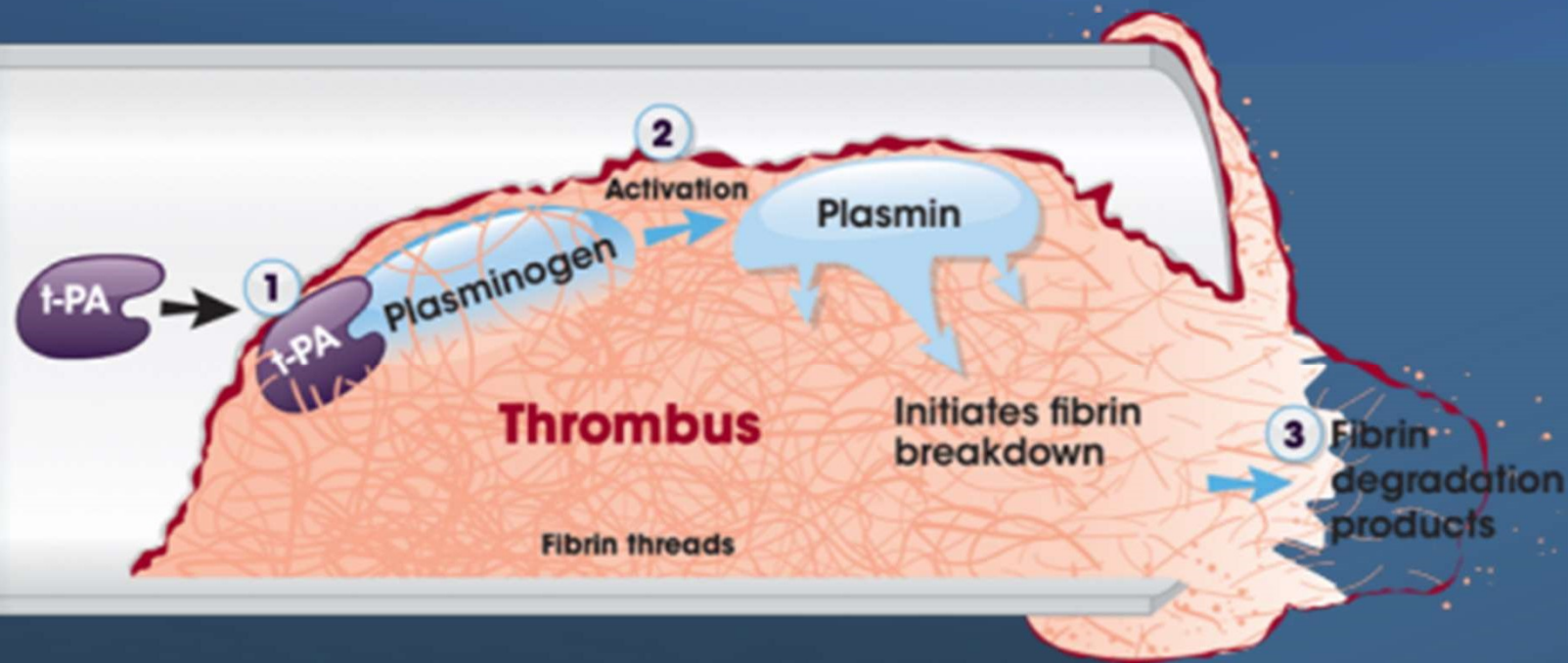
Thrombolytic agent FDA approved for acute ischemic stroke, pulmonary embolism, acute MI, and occluded catheters.

Initial half life = 5 min

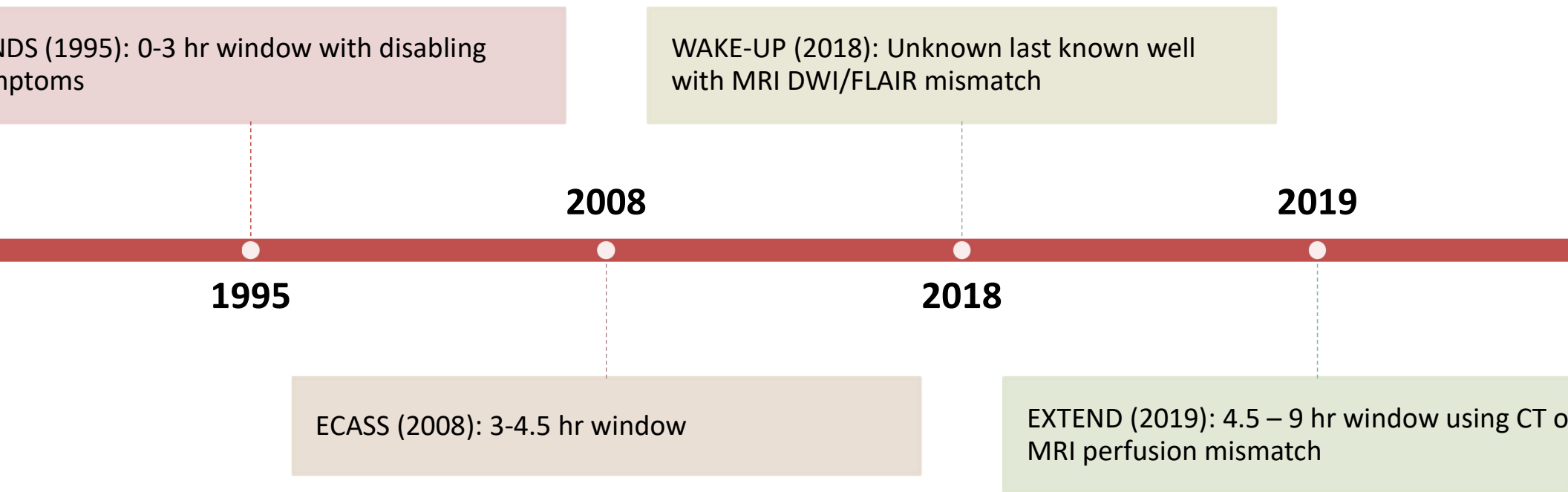
Dose: 0.9 mg/kg given (10% given as IV bolus over 1 minute and 90% given as infusion over 1 hour)

Adverse reactions: Bleeding, Angioedema, Anaphylaxis, Fever





Alteplase Trials for Ischemic Stroke



Tenecteplase

Also a thrombolytic and tissue plasminogen activator

Increased fibrin specificity which decreases systemic plasminogen activation and degradation of circulating fibrinogen

Initial half life: **20-24 minutes**

Adverse reactions: Bleeding, Arrhythmia (in use for coronary thrombolysis), Angioedema, Anaphylaxis



Alteplase versus tenecteplase

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
Approved Indication	Acute ischemic stroke, acute MI, acute massive pulmonary embolism	Thrombolysis in patients with STEMI if PCI unavailable/delayed
Dosing for AIS	0.9mg/kg, max 90mg (bolus and 60 minute infusion)	0.1-0.4mg/kg (single bolus)
Fibrin affinity	Fibrin + PAI ++	Fibrin +++ PAI +
Plasminogen activating half life	5 minutes	20-24 minutes
Plasminogen half life	1 hour	2 hours
Excretion	Hepatic	Hepatic
Approximate wholesale price	\$10,560.43 (100mg vial)	\$7798.45 (50mg vial)

plasminogen activator inhibitor

Am J Emerg Med. 2019; 37:344-348



HARVARD
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Postgraduate
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Tenecteplase vs Alteplase for Acute Ischemic Stroke

TNK S2B: No difference in 90-day neurologic outcomes between standard dose alteplase and 0.1 mg/kg or 0.25 mg/kg tenecteplase in 0-3 hr window

ATTEST: Tenecteplase 0.25mg/kg outcomes in 0-4.5 hr window equivalent to standard dose alteplase with trends toward better neuro outcome in tenecteplase group

EXTEND IA-TNK: Better reperfusion and neurologic functional outcomes in Tenecteplase 0.4mg/kg in 0-4.5 hr window prior to thrombectomy

2010

2012

2015

2017

2018

TAAIS: Tenecteplase 0.25 mg/kg outcomes superior to standard dose alteplase in 0-6 hr window (25 patients enrolled)

NOR-TEST: Tenecteplase 0.4mg/kg outcomes equivalent to standard dose alteplase in 4.5 hr from onset or from wake-up window



NEWS • Daily News

June 29, 2022



Switching to 1

TT Calgary researchers with



Newer generation, clot-busting stroke medication cuts the risk of serious bleeding in half



or
roke?

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American Stroke Association International Stroke Conference

place for Acute Ischemic Stroke

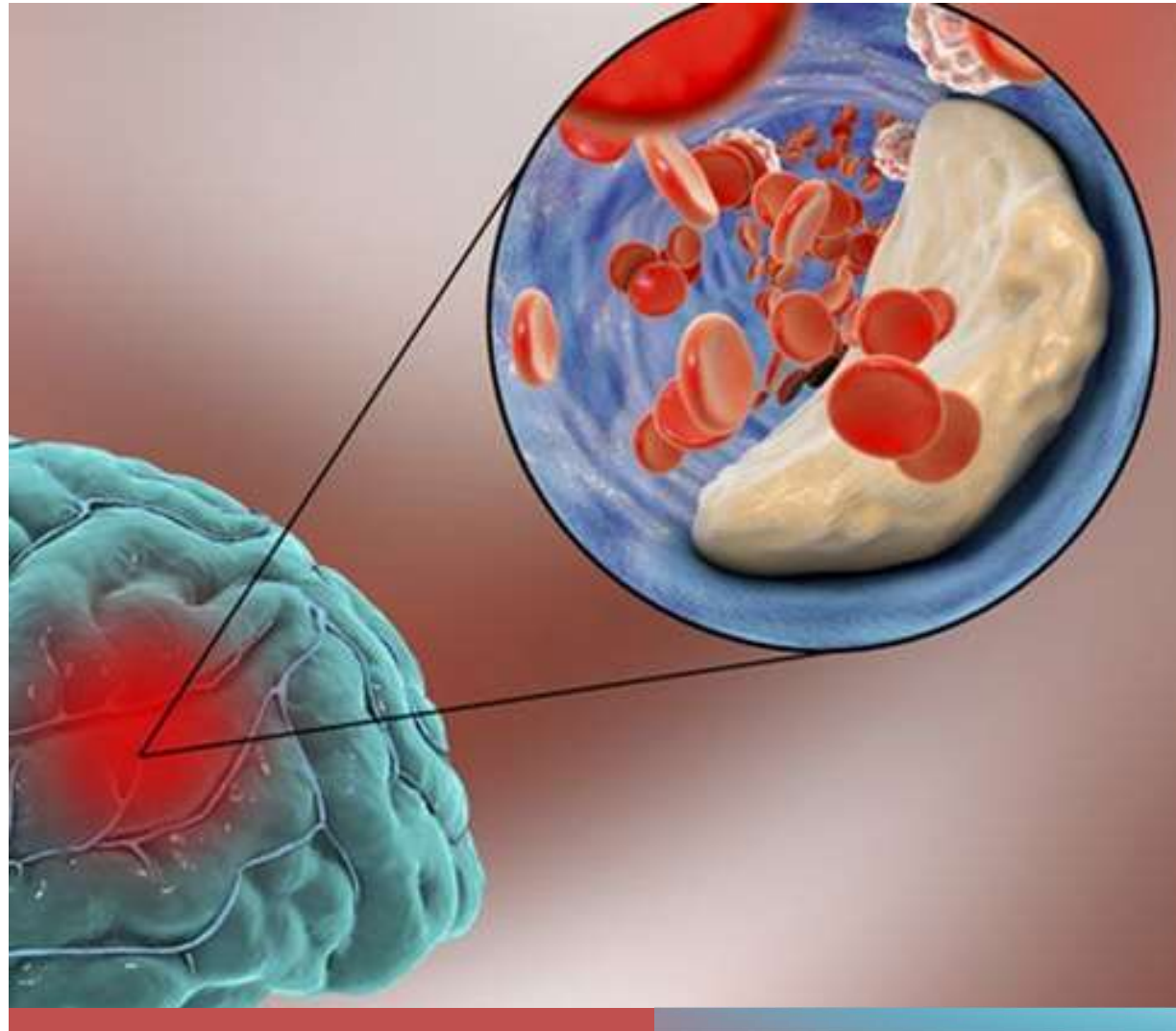
2022



among the first health systems in the U.S. to
the faster-acting, genetically engineered

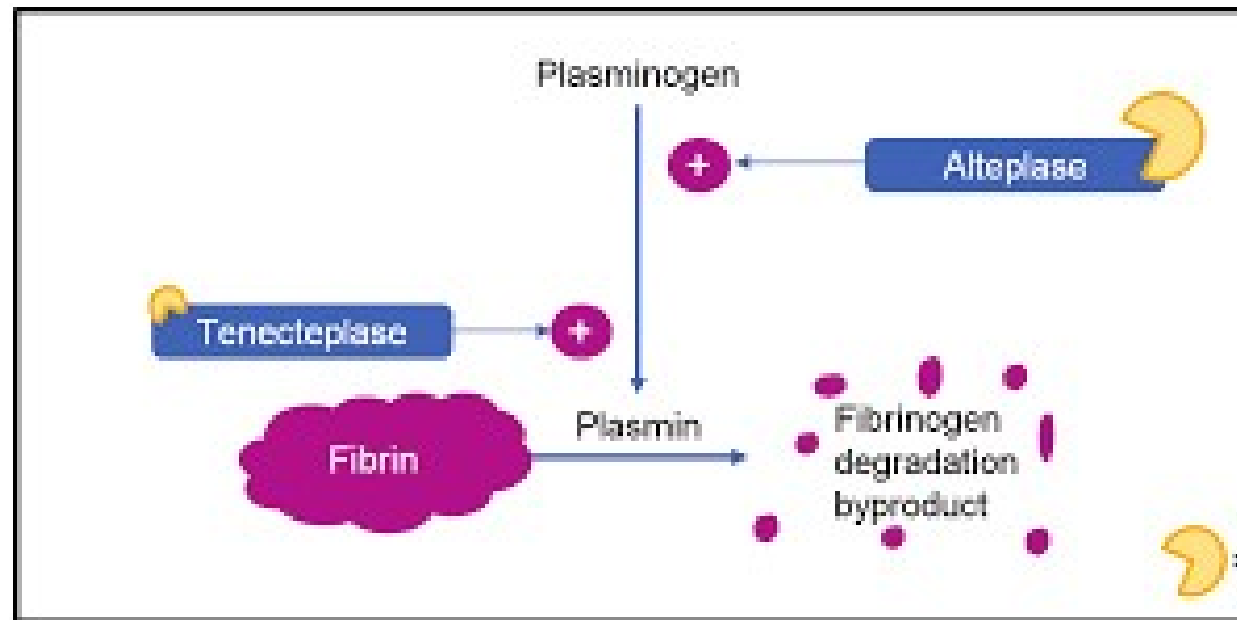
The right drug at the right time?

- Pharmacokinetics
- Trial results
- Practical considerations:
Cost/Dosing
- Covid-19 Pandemic



Better pharmacokinetics

Differs from alteplase by
3 amino acids
14x greater fibrin
specificity
10x greater fibrinogen
preservation
80x resistance to
plasminogen activator
inhibitor-1 (PAI-1)



TNK in the 4.5 hour window (ATTEST-2)

Reported at World Stroke Congress (Oct 2023)

Completed in UK

Comparing alteplase 0.9mg/kg vs Tenecteplase 0.25mg/kg

TNK group had better odds for good 90-day mRS 1.07 (0.90-1.27) but not superior to alteplase

TNK did meet criteria for **non-inferiority**

No significant differences in safety or mortality

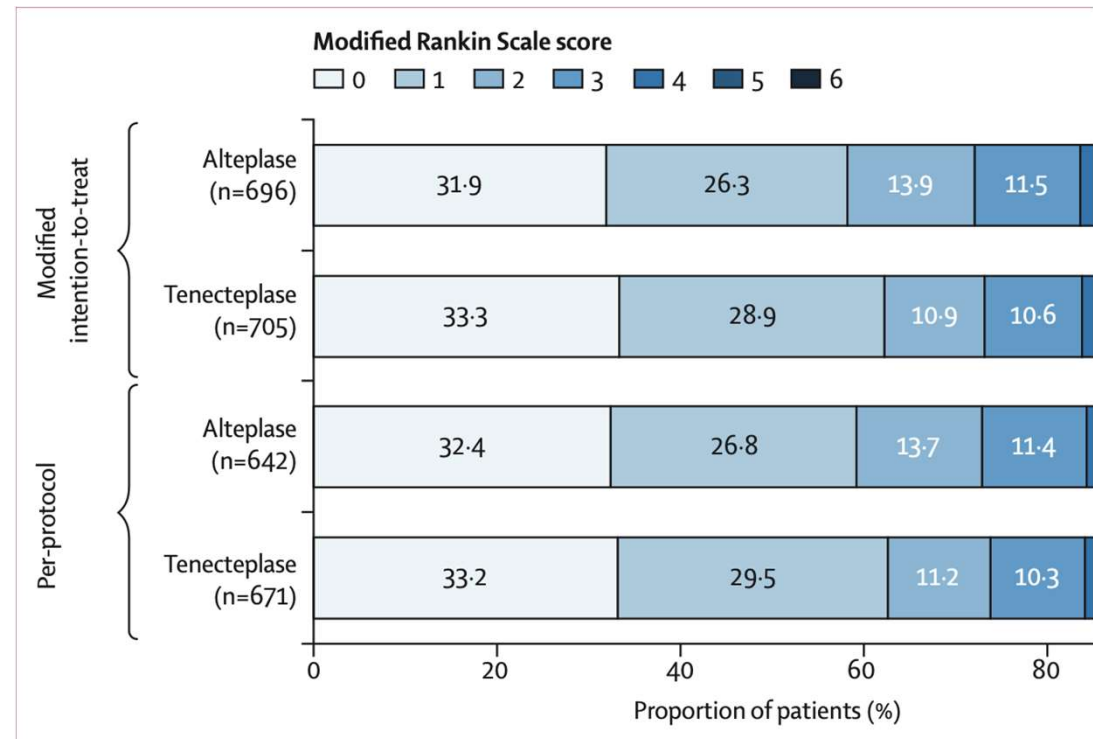
TNK in the 4.5 hr window (TRACE-2)

Lancet March 2023

Enrolled 1430 patients in China

Primary outcome 90-day mRS 0-1

TNK met ***non-inferiority*** criteria
but not superiority criteria



< in the 4.5 hr window (AcT)

pragmatic, registry-linked, non-inferiority trial (Lancet 2022)

600 patients in Canada

alteplase 0.9mg/kg vs TNK 25mg/kg in 4.5 hr window

TNK meeting ***non-inferiority***

compared to alteplase for mRS 0-1 at 90-120 days

no difference in safety outcomes

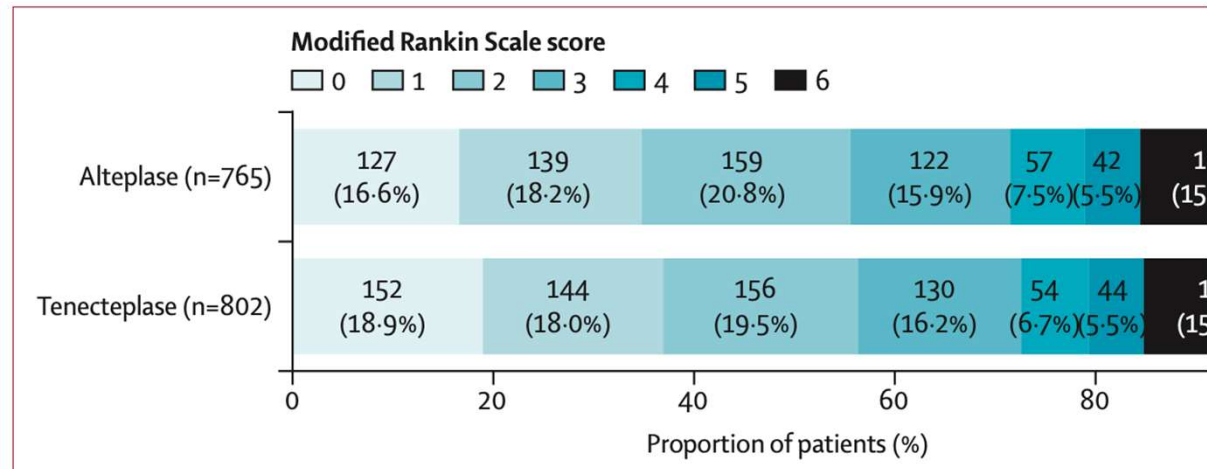
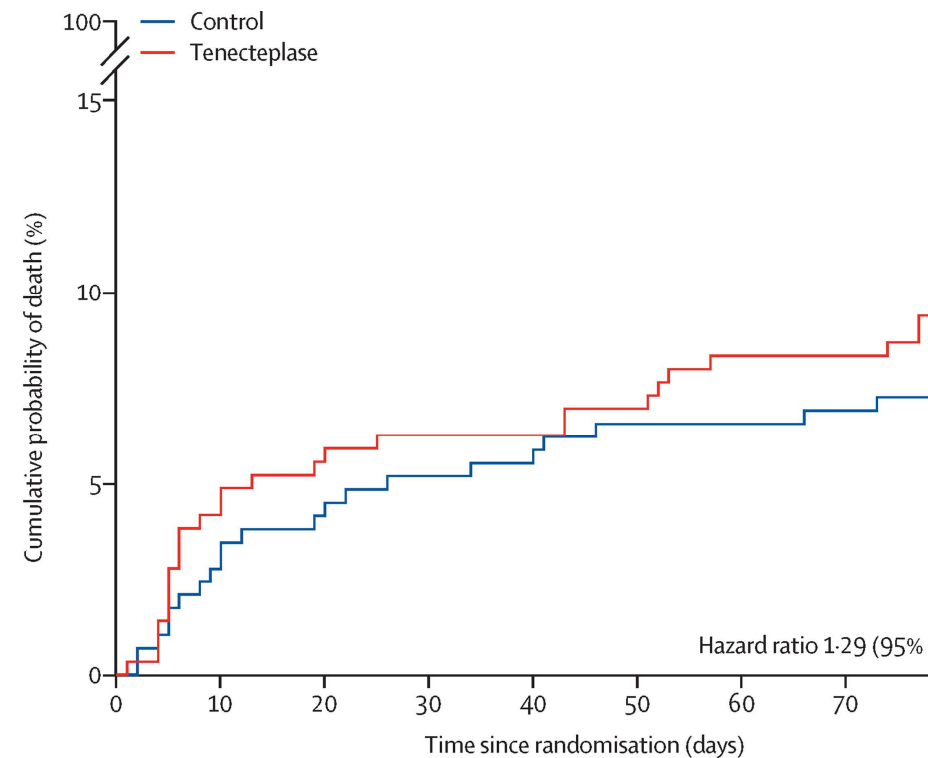


Figure 2: Distribution of the modified Rankin Scale scores at 90-120 days, intention-to-treat population. Scores range from 0 to 6, with 0 indicating no symptoms, 1 no clinically significant disability, 2 slight disability, 3 moderate disability, 4 moderately severe disability, 5 severe disability, and 6 death.

TNK in the extended window (TWIST)

TNK 0.25 mg/kg vs no thrombolysis within 4.5 hrs of waking up with stroke symptoms
Eligibility based on non-contrast head CT only
No difference in 90-day mRS 0-1
aOR 1.18 95%CI (0.88-1.58)
No difference in safety outcomes



Number at risk		0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
Tenecteplase		288	276	272	270	270	268	264	264
Control		290	282	278	275	274	271	271	270

TNK for Large Vessel Occlusion (EXTEND IA-TNK)

Tenecteplase 0.25mg/kg vs Alteplase 0.9mg/kg in LVO within 4.5 hr window

202 enrolled in Australia and New Zealand

Tenecteplase showed higher incidence of reperfusion and better 90-day functional outcomes

No difference in symptomatic ICH

TNK for Large Vessel Occlusion (TIMELESS)

TNK 0.25mg/kg vs placebo in 4.5-24 hr window in LVO patients with favorable penumbra

Reported from European Stroke Organization Conference May 2023

458 enrolled in US and Canada (77% received thrombectomy)

No difference in 90-day mRS

TNK showed higher rate of complete recanalization (76.7% vs 63.9%)

No difference in safety outcomes

TNK in Practice

Improves workflow for drip and ship model

Easier dosing with no gaps between bolus and infusion

Less time in the patient room for nursing staff (covid exposure)

Lower costs

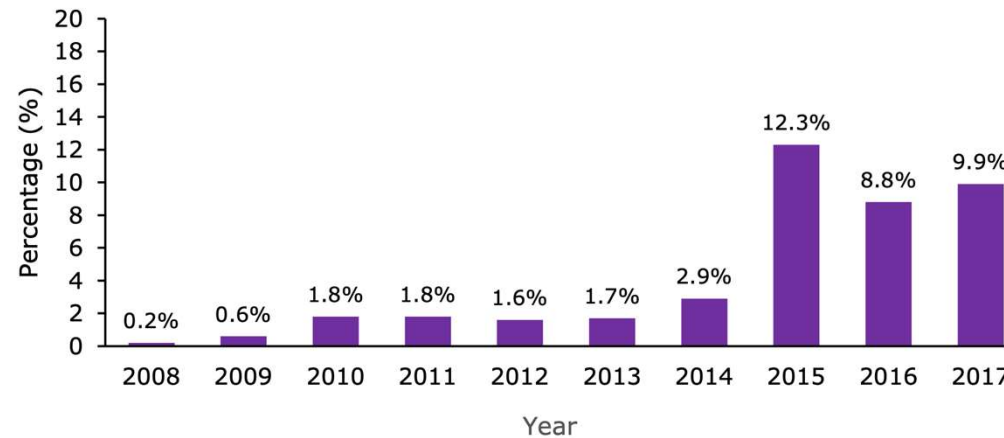
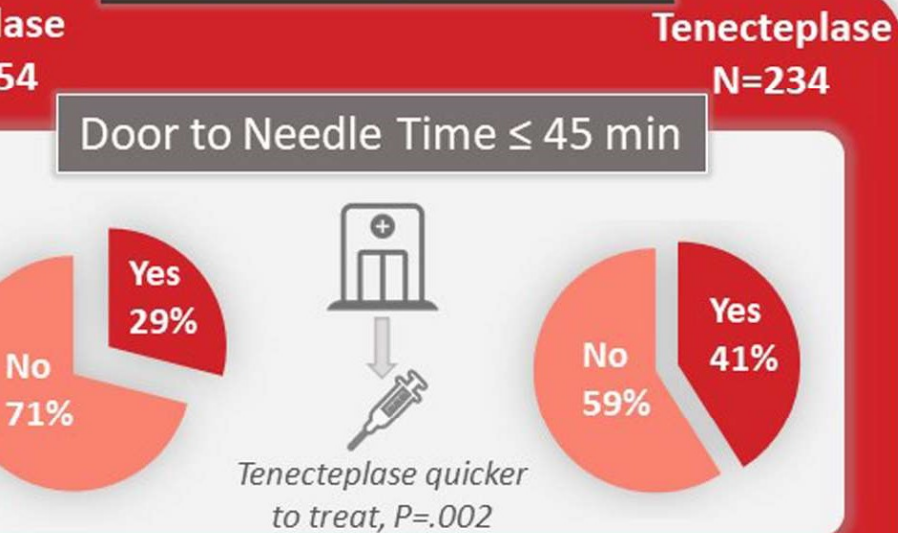


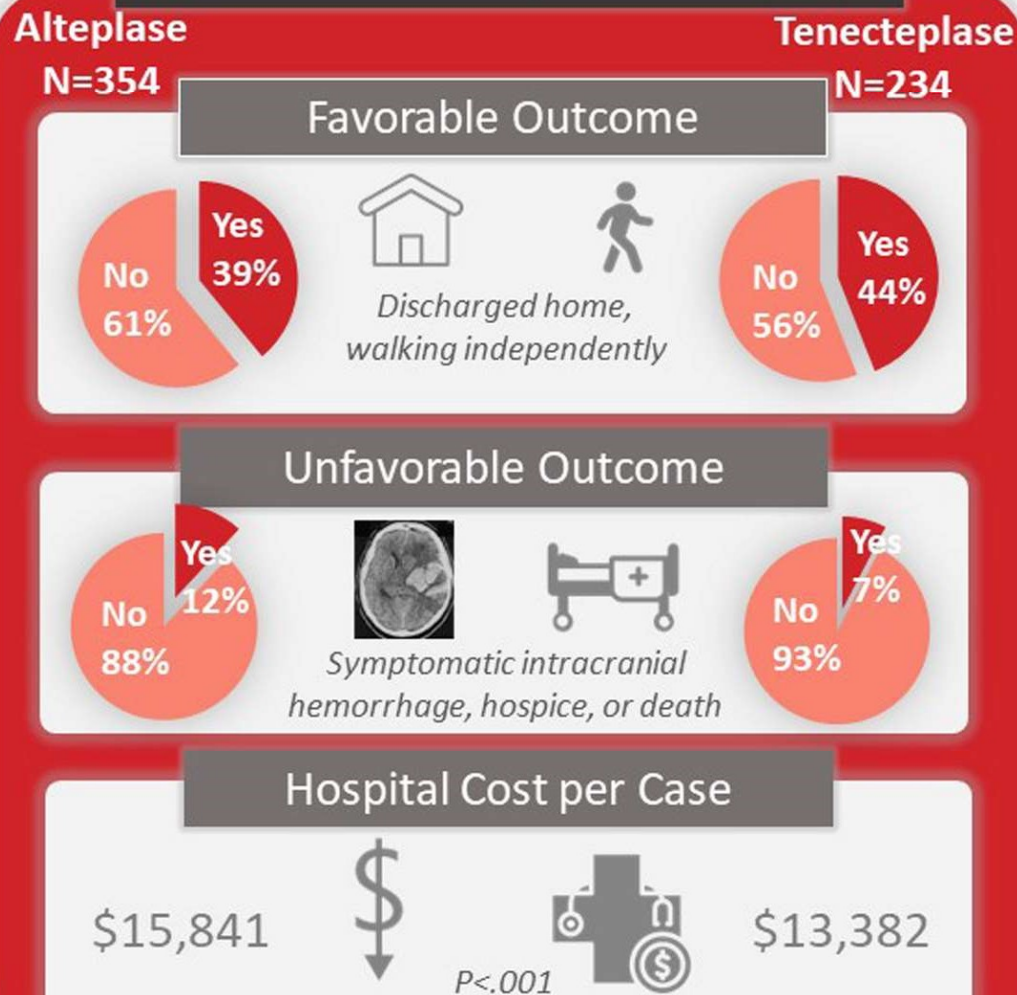
FIGURE 21. PERCENTAGE OF DRIP-AND-SHIP THERAPY AMONG ADULT ISCHEMIC STROKE CASES, 2008-2017.

Tenecteplase versus Alteplase in Clinical Practice

Workflow Times



Outcome at Hospital Discharge





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jstroke



Comparative study of barriers and facilitators to using tenecteplase to treat acute ischemic stroke

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So TNK is in and Alteplase is out?

No FDA approval

No evidence of superiority (small studies, mixed results)

Level of evidence (IIB) while trials are ongoing

Best results in LVO which represents only fraction of all ischemic strokes

Current AHA/ASA Guidelines

3.6. Other IV Fibrinolytics and Sonothrombolysis	COR	LOE
1. It may be reasonable to choose tenecteplase (single IV bolus of 0.25-mg/kg, maximum 25 mg) over IV alteplase in patients without contraindications for IV fibrinolysis who are also eligible to undergo mechanical thrombectomy.	IIb	B-R
<p>IV tenecteplase (0.25 mg/kg bolus, maximum 25 mg) was compared with IV alteplase (usual dose of 0.9 mg/kg over 60 minutes, maximum 90 mg) in the EXTEND-IA TNK trial (Tenecteplase Versus Alteplase Before Endovascular Therapy for Ischemic Stroke).¹⁷⁸ This multicenter trial randomized 202 patients without previous severe disability and with documented occlusion of the internal carotid artery, proximal MCA (M1 or M2 segments), or basilar arteries presenting within 4.5 hours of symptom onset to receive 1 of these 2 fibrinolytic agents. Primary end point was reperfusion of >50% of the involved ischemic territory or an absence of retrievable thrombus at the time of the initial angiographic assessment. The trial was designed to test for noninferiority and, if noninferiority proven, for superiority. Secondary outcomes included the mRS score at 90 days. Median NIHSS score was 17. The primary end point was achieved by 22% of patients treated with tenecteplase versus 10% of those treated with alteplase ($P=0.002$ for noninferiority and 0.03 for superiority). In an analysis of secondary end points, tenecteplase resulted in better functional outcomes at 90 days on the basis of the ordinal shift analysis of the mRS score (common OR [cOR], 1.7 [95% CI, 1.0–2.8]; $P=0.04$) but less robustly for the proportion who achieved an mRS score of 0 to 1 ($P=0.23$) or 0 to 2 ($P=0.06$). sICH rates were 1% in both groups.</p>		

Current AHA/ASA Guidelines

2. Tenecteplase administered as a 0.4-mg/kg single IV bolus has not been proven to be superior or noninferior to alteplase but might be considered as an alternative to alteplase in patients with minor neurological impairment and no major intracranial occlusion.

IIb

B-R

IV tenecteplase has been compared with IV alteplase up to 6 hours after stroke onset in 3 phase II and 1 phase III superiority trials; tenecteplase appears to be similarly safe, but it is unclear whether it is as effective as or more effective than alteplase.^{179–182} In the largest trial of 1100 subjects, tenecteplase at a dose of 0.4 mg/kg failed to demonstrate superiority and had a safety and efficacy profile similar to that of alteplase in a stroke population composed predominantly of patients with minor neurological impairment (median NIHSS score, 4) and no major intracranial occlusion.¹⁸² Tenecteplase is given as a single IV bolus as opposed to the 1-hour infusion of alteplase.

Guideline Organization	Date	Recommendations Text	Brief Summary
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association ¹	Oct 2019	<p>--"It may be reasonable to choose tenecteplase (single IV bolus of 0.25 mg/kg, maximum 25 mg) over IV alteplase in patients without contraindications for IV fibrinolysis who are also eligible to undergo mechanical thrombectomy. (Class IIb recommendation)."</p> <p>--"Tenecteplase administered as a 0.4 mg/kg single IV might be considered as an alternative to alteplase in patients with minor neurological impairment and no major intracranial occlusion. (Class IIb recommendation)"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LVO: TNK (0.25 mg/kg) or ALT may be reasonable • non-LVO: TNK as alternative to ALT might be considered
Australian Stroke Foundation ¹⁶	Nov 2019	<p>"For patients with potentially disabling ischemic stroke who meet thrombolysis eligibility criteria ≤ 4.5 h from TLKW intravenous tenecteplase (0.25 mg/kg, maximum of 25 mg) or alteplase (0.9 mg/kg, maximum of 90 mg) should be administered to patients with stroke due to LVO (Strong Recommendation), and tenecteplase may be used as an alternative to alteplase for those without LVO."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LVO: either TNK (0.25 mg/kg) or ALT should be given • non-LVO: TNK may be alternative to ALT

ese Stroke Association ¹⁷	June 2020	“...for patients with mild neurological dysfunction without occlusion of the intracranial artery, tenecteplase can be considered instead of rt-PA (class IIb, level of evidence B).”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-LVO: TNK instead of ALT can be considered
European Stroke Organisation ⁴	Feb 2021	<p>--"For patients with acute ischaemic stroke of <4.5 h duration and with large vessel occlusion who are candidates for mechanical thrombectomy and for whom intravenous thrombolysis is considered before thrombectomy, we suggest intravenous thrombolysis with tenecteplase 0.25 mg/kg over intravenous thrombolysis with alteplase 0.9 mg/kg.” (Quality of evidence: Low; Strength of recommendation: Weak)</p> <p>--“For patients with acute ischaemic stroke of <4.5 h duration and not eligible for thrombectomy, we suggest intravenous thrombolysis with alteplase over intravenous thrombolysis with tenecteplase. (Quality of evidence: Low; Strength of recommendation: Weak)”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-EVT: TNK (0.25 mg/kg) preferred over ALT • Non-EVT: ALT preferred over TNK
n National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Chronic Respiratory Disease ¹⁸	July 2019	“0-3 hours - IV tenecteplase (TNK) or IV rtPA”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-3 h: either TNK or ALT should be given

Ongoing Studies

TEMPO-2: TNK 0.25 mg/kg vs antiplatelet for minor stroke/TIA in the 0-12hr window (Dec 2023)

ETERNAL-LVO: TNK 0.25mg/kg vs standard of care up to 24 hrs with LVO or extracranial ICA stenosis (Dec 2025)

TIMELESS: TNK 0.25 mg/kg vs placebo in LVO (MCA/ICA) patients in 4.5 – 24 hr window (April 2022)

CHABLIS-T: TNK 0.25mg/kg vs TNK 0.32 mg/kg in LVO patients (MCA/ICA) patients in 4.5 – 24 hr window (Dec 2020)

Summary

Growing recent data supporting non-inferiority of TNK
TNK performs better for large vessel occlusion and often
improves door to needle times

Safety and mortality outcomes are similar

More randomized trial results in the next 3-4 years to improve
level of evidence in the guidelines

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