The LEGS score is a shortened NIHSS-5. LEGS score stands for Leg strength, Eyes/visual fields, Gaze, Speech/language. LEGS score (0-16) as well as the full NIHSS (0-42) were performed in the emergency department over a 6-month period.

INTRODUCTION

A pre-hospital stroke severity scale that correlates well with an NIHSS of 10 or greater (NIHSS ≥10 correlates well with large vessel occlusions) but is easier and faster to perform would be very useful triaging tool to emergency medical services (EMS).

METHODS

The LEGS score is a shortened NIHSS-5. LEGS score stands for Leg strength, Eyes/visual fields, Gaze, Speech/language. LEGS score (0-16) as well as the full NIHSS (0-42) were performed in the emergency department over a 6-month period.

RESULTS

A total of 182 consecutive ischemic stroke patients were evaluated. LEGS score 4 or greater was a good predictor of an NIHSS of 10 or greater (59/182; positive predictive value 92%; and specificity 95%) and false positives noted was 5/182. LEGS score of less than 4 was a good predictor of an NIHSS of less than 10 (108/182; negative predictive value 91%; and sensitivity 95%) and false negatives noted was 10/182.

Texas Stroke Institute (TSI) is a network of nine hospitals within HCA North Texas Division.

DISCUSSION

• LEGS score of 4 or greater is a useful triage tool to identify moderate to severe stroke patients, correlating with an NIHSS > 10
• Patients with ischemic stroke and an NIHSS of 10 or greater is suggestive of a large vessel occlusion of the anterior circulation (Heldner et al)
• The simplified prehospital stroke scale (LEGS) correlates with an NIHSS of 10
• By identifying these patients in the field we can quickly triage appropriate patients to comprehensive centers with interventional and neurosurgical capabilities

REFERENCES