

Stroke & Coma

Acute Phase Patients:

___ Coma or persistent vegetative state secondary to stroke, beyond three days' duration

___ In post-anoxic stroke, coma or severe obtundation, accompanied by severe myoclonus, persistent beyond three days past the anoxic event

___ Comatose patients with any four (4) of the following on day 3 of coma had 97% mortality by 2 months:

- a. ___ Abnormal brain stem response
- b. ___ Absent verbal response
- c. ___ Absent withdrawal response to pain
- d. ___ Serum creatinine >1.5 mg/dl
- e. ___ Age > 70

___ Dysphagia severe enough to prevent the patient from receiving food and fluids necessary to sustain life, in a patient who declines or is not a candidate for artificial nutrition and hydration

Chronic Phase Patients:

___ Age > 70

___ Poor functional status as evidenced by Palliative Performance Scale < 40%

___ Post stroke dementia as evidenced by a FAST score > 7

___ Poor nutritional status, whether artificial nutrition or not:

- a. ___ unintentional, progressive weight loss > 10% over 6 months
- b. ___ serum albumin < 2.5 mg/dl

___ Medical complications related to debility:

- a. ___ aspiration pneumonia
- b. ___ upper urinary tract infection
- c. ___ sepsis
- d. ___ stage 3-4 decubitus ulcers
- e. ___ fever recurrent after antibiotics