

Supplementary methods

The method of designing the modified protocol

Standard code stroke in National Cheng Kung University Hospital

National Cheng Kung University Hospital is a university-affiliated tertiary medical center in Southern Taiwan, with 1320 beds, including 124 in the intensive care unit (ICU). Six beds are included in the negative-pressure ICU and 10 in the negative-pressure general ward. In 2019, 852 acute ischemic stroke patients were hospitalized, and intravenous thrombolysis was performed in 69. The eligibility for endovascular thrombectomy was evaluated in 255 patients, and 46 patients had undergone endovascular thrombectomy. The case selections for intravenous thrombolysis and endovascular thrombectomy were based on the recommendations of the Taiwan Stroke Society and the 2019 American Heart Association/American Stroke Association guidelines for managing acute ischemic stroke.³⁻⁵

Achievement of consensus for the “modified code stroke”
Since February 2020, we convened meetings of an assembled multidisciplinary team to discuss the code stroke protocol required in response to the coronavirus disease of 2019 crisis. Members of the meetings included neurologists (Drs. C.H. Chen, P.S. Sung, Y.M. Chang, and P.Y. Lin), a radiologist (Dr. M.T. Chuang), a neuro-interventionist (Dr. C.Y. Huang), emergency physicians (Drs. C.H. Lin, H.I. Shih, and C.C. Hsieh), an anesthesiologist (Dr. C.C. Tseng), an infectious disease specialist in center of infection control (Dr. P.L. Chen), and other medical staff involved in this protocol. A preliminary protocol was developed by the two co-authors (Drs. P.S. Sung and P.Y. Lin) using the available published data before April 18, 2020. All co-authors contributed in refining the protocol to facilitate its applications in practice based on the limitations of actual clinical settings. The published version was approved in the meeting conducted on April 22, 2020.