

Improving Nursing Practice Through Telestroke Partnerships

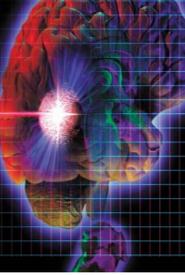
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American Heart Association
 American Stroke Association
CERTIFICATION
 Meets standards for
Comprehensive Stroke Center



Introduction

Emergency department (ED) nurses play a vital role in initiating the appropriate care of stroke patients. Nurses must demonstrate a proficient skill level in order to partner with the health care team to ensure the delivery of quality stroke care. Education is a key component to attaining and maintaining proficiency and comfort in these skills. Telestroke partnerships provide a unique opportunity to improve the knowledge and skill level of nurses in community hospital emergency departments.

The purpose of this study is to measure the impact on nursing knowledge and practice through the establishment of a telestroke partnership between a Comprehensive Stroke Center and community partner hospitals.

Methods

After literature review, a questionnaire was developed and evaluated by the nursing research council. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was obtained. Prior to education related to stroke care and telestroke technology, partner hospital ED nurses completed the questionnaire measuring their knowledge and comfort level in bedside practice. Education related to stroke identification, assessment, tPA administration, and advanced interventions was provided. A follow up questionnaire was completed at 3 month post education and implementation.

Discussion

As a result of the education and support provided through the telestroke partnership, the community hospital ED nurses' scores demonstrated an increased level of comfort and knowledge related to the care of an acute stroke patient. Stroke care and patient outcomes are directly impacted by the level of nursing knowledge and practice at the bedside.

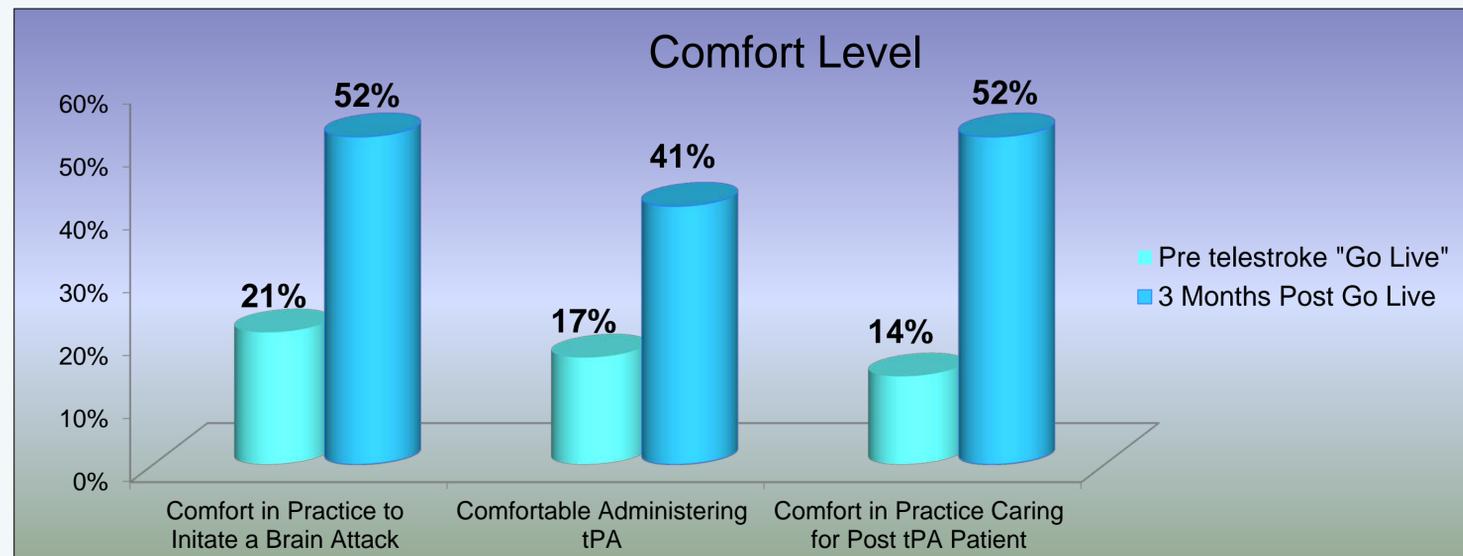
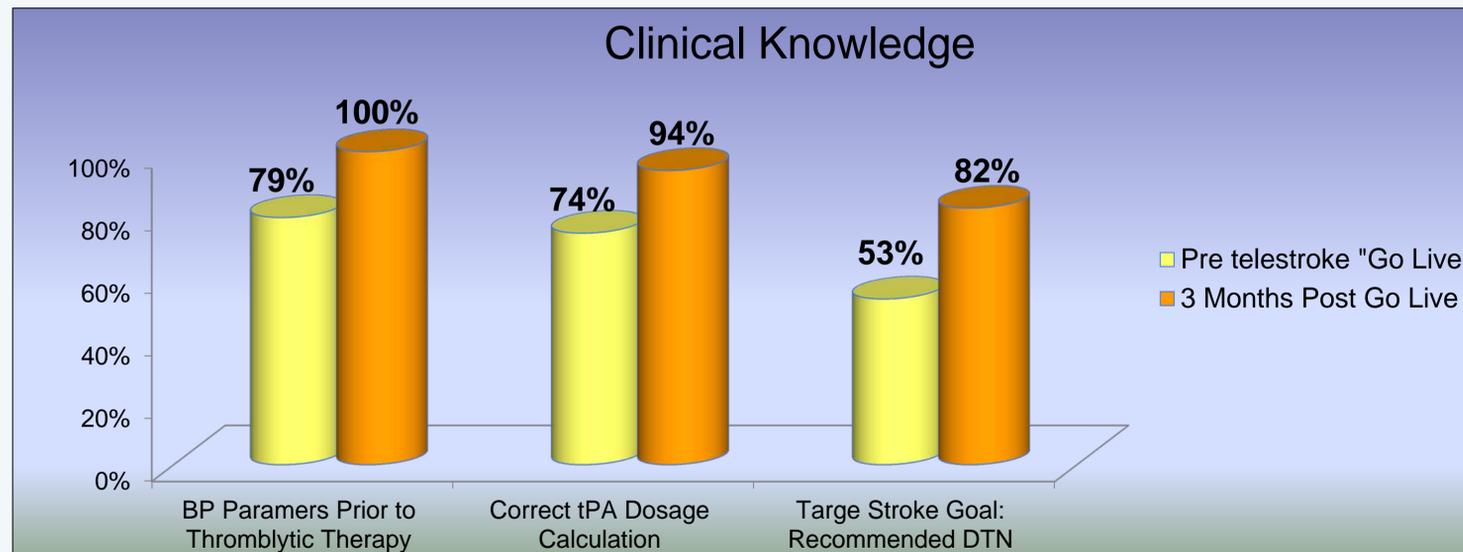
Conclusion

Telestroke partnerships between nursing leaders at a comprehensive center and community hospitals strengthen the practice levels in the community hospital setting.

References:

Schwamm, L. H., Holloway, R. G., Amarenco, P., Audebert, H. J., Bakas, T., Chumbler, N. R.,...Wechsler, L. R. (2009). A review of the evidence for the use of telemedicine within stroke systems of care: A scientific statement from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke*, 40, 2616-2634

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