

Common Stroke Signs & Symptoms

- Hemiparesis (ie, weakness on one side of body)
- Hemiplegia (ie, paralysis on one side of body)
- Facial weakness or droop on one side of face
- Dysarthria (ie, slurred speech)
- Dizziness or vertigo
- Expressive aphasia (ie, loss of ability to produce written or spoken language)
- Receptive aphasia (ie, loss of ability to understand written or spoken language)
- Eye deviation (ie, fixed gaze to one side or difficulty looking to one side)
- Denial or neglect (ie, inability to respond purposefully to stimulus on one side of body)

Additional Stroke Signs & Symptoms

- Altered level of consciousness
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- Visual disturbances
- Generalized weakness
- Motor ataxia (ie, new onset of clumsiness or incoordination) or frequent or unexplained falls



**The RACE Scale is one of many scales EMS can use to identify patients with a potential Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO). No single scale has been proven most superior. For more information on the purpose of Stroke Severity Scales and hospital transport considerations, please visit stroke.org/stroketransportplans.*

EMS Identification of Stroke Presence & Severity

1. If sign or symptom of stroke, use **Stroke Screening Tool** to screen for stroke presence.
2. If positive Stroke Screen, use **Stroke Severity Scale** to assess severity (which can indicate potential LVO).
3. **Pre-notify Receiving Hospital of suspected stroke!**

RACE Stroke Severity Scale*

Item	Result	Score
Facial Palsy	Absent facial palsy	0
	Mild facial palsy	1
	Moderate/severe facial palsy	2
Arm Motor Function	Normal/mild arm motor dysfunction	0
	Moderate arm motor dysfunction	1
	Severe arm motor dysfunction	2
Leg Motor Function	Normal/mild leg motor dysfunction	0
	Moderate leg motor dysfunction	1
	Severe leg motor dysfunction	2
Head & Gaze Deviation	Absent: head & gaze deviation absent	0
	Present: head & gaze deviation present	1
Aphasia (if right hemiparesis)	Absent aphasia	0
	Moderate aphasia	1
	Severe aphasia	2
-OR- Agnosia (if left hemiparesis)	-OR-	-OR-
	Absent agnosia	0
	Moderate agnosia	1
	Severe agnosia	2
Total Score		= Sum of items

Pérez de la Ossa N, Carrera D, Gorchs M, et al. Design and validation of a prehospital stroke scale to predict large arterial occlusion: The Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation Scale. *Stroke*. 2014; 45: 87-91.