



Mechanical thrombectomy practices in France: Exhaustive survey of centers and individual operators

Géraud Forestier, Basile Kerleroux, Kévin Janot, François Zhu, Victor Dumas, Jean-François Hak, Eimad Shotar, Wagih Ben Hassen, Romain Bourcier, Sébastien Soize, et al.

► To cite this version:

Géraud Forestier, Basile Kerleroux, Kévin Janot, François Zhu, Victor Dumas, et al.. Mechanical thrombectomy practices in France: Exhaustive survey of centers and individual operators. *Journal de Neuroradiologie / Journal of Neuroradiology*, 2020, 47 (6), pp.410-415. 10.1016/j.neurad.2020.05.001 . hal-03269039

HAL Id: hal-03269039

<https://hal.univ-lorraine.fr/hal-03269039>

Submitted on 17 Oct 2022

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International License

Mechanical thrombectomy practices in France: exhaustive survey of centers and individual operators

Géraud Forestier ^{a, *}, Basile Kerleroux ^b, Kévin Janot ^c, François Zhu ^d, Victor Dumas ^e, Jean-François Hak ^f, Eimad Shotar ^g, Wagih BenHassen ^b, Romain Bourcier ^h, Sébastien Soize ⁱ, Jérôme Berge ^j, Olivier Naggara ^b, Hubert Desal ^h, Grégoire Boulouis ^{b, l}, Aymeric Rouchaud ^{a, k, l}, **JENI Research collaboration**,

^a University Hospital of Limoges, Neuroradiology Department, Dupuytren, 2 avenue Martin Luther King 87042 LIMOGES Cedex

^b Université Paris-Descartes, INSERM UMR 1266, Department of Neuroradiology, CH Sainte-Anne, Paris, France

^c University Hospital of Tours, Neuroradiology Department, Tours, France

^d University Hospital of Nancy, Nancy, France

^e Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, La Milettrie Hospital, Poitiers, France

^f University Hospital of Marseille, Marseille, France

^g University Hospital, Pitié-Salpêtrière, PARIS, France

^h University Hospital of Nantes, Nantes, France

ⁱ Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, CHU Reims, Hôpital Maison Blanche, Université Reims-Champagne Ardenne, France

^j Department of Neuroradiology, Hôpital Pellegrin - University Hospital of Bordeaux, Place Amélie Raba-Léon, 33076 BORDEAUX, FRANCE

^k Université de Limoges, XLIM CNRS, UMR 7252

^l Both authors contribute equally to this work.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: geraudforestier@gmail.com (G. FORESTIER).

Collaborators:

R. HANAFLI, CHU Amiens-Picardie 80054 Amiens Cedex 1; V. L'ALLINEC, Radiology Department, Angers University Hospital, Angers, France; J.-B. GIROT Radiology Department, Angers University Hospital, Angers, France; G. CHARBONNIER, Department of Neuroradiology and Endovascular Therapy, CHU Besançon, France; A. BIONDI, Department of Neuroradiology and Endovascular Therapy, CHU Besançon, France; F. GARIEL, Department of neuroradiology, Hôpital Pellegrin - University Hospital of Bordeaux, Place Amélie Raba-Léon, 33076 BORDEAUX, FRANCE; G. MARNAT, Department of neuroradiology, Hôpital Pellegrin - University Hospital of Bordeaux, Place Amélie Raba-Léon, 33076 BORDEAUX, FRANCE; J. OGNARD, Functional unit of interventional neuroradiology, medical imaging department, Brest University Hospital, La Cavale Blanche, Boulevard Tanguy-Prigent, 29609 Brest, France; J.-C. GENTRIC, Functional unit of interventional neuroradiology, medical imaging department, Brest University Hospital, La Cavale Blanche, Boulevard Tanguy-Prigent, 29609 Brest, France; C. BARBIER, University Hospital of Caen, Caen, France; E. CHABERT, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Clermont-Ferrand, France; P. LEBEDINSKY, Department of Radiology, Hospital of Colmar, T. TUILIER, Department of Neuroradiology, APHP, Henry Mondor Hospital, 94000 Créteil; P. THOUANT, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Dijon, France; P.-O. COMBY, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Dijon, France; M. MEJDOUBI, CHU de MARTINIQUE - University Hospital of Martinique; O. HECK, Service de neuroradiologie diagnostique et interventionnelle CHU Grenoble, CS 10217, 38043 Grenoble Cedex 9; A. KASTLER, Service de neuroradiologie diagnostique et interventionnelle CHU Grenoble, CS 10217, 38043 Grenoble Cedex 9; V. CHALUMEAU, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, CHU Bicêtre, Le Kremlin Bicêtre, France; J. CAROFF, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, CHU Bicêtre, Le Kremlin Bicêtre, France; T. PERSONNIC, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, Hôpital Roger Salengro, CHR Lille, Lille Cedex, France; A. MARCHAL, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, Hôpital Roger Salengro, CHR Lille, Lille Cedex, France; C. BOGEY, Service de Neuroradiologie interventionnelle CHRU Dupuytren 2 avenue Martin Luther King 87042 LIMOGES Cedex; O. EKER, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, Hospices Civils de Lyon, France; X. CARLE, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Marseille, France; C. DARGAZANLI, Neuroradiology Department, Gui de Chauliac Hospital, Montpellier, France; I. DERRAZ, Neuroradiology Department, Gui de Chauliac Hospital, Montpellier, France; B. GORY, Service de Neuroradiologie Diagnostique et Thérapeutique CHRU Nancy, France; L. DETRAZ, Neuroradiology Department, Nantes University Hospital, France; J. SEDAT, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Nice, France; O. ZURLINDEN, Service de Radiologie, Centre Hospitalier Territorial Gaston-Bourret, Nouvelle Calédonie; S. ESCALARD, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, Fondation Rothschild, 25 rue Manin, 75019, Paris, France; R. FAHED, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, Fondation Rothschild, 25 rue Manin, 75019, Paris, France; A. GUEDON, Department of Neuroradiology, Lariboisière Hospital, Paris, France; V. CIVELLI, Department of Neuroradiology, Lariboisière Hospital, Paris, France; K. PREMAT, AP-HP, Service de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France; F. CLARENÇON, AP-HP, Service de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France; E. DUCOURET, Centre Hospitalier de la Polynésie Française; N. RAYNAUD, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, La Milettrie Hospital, Poitiers, France; S. VELASCO, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, La Milettrie Hospital, Poitiers, France; P.-F. MANCEAU, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, CHU Reims, Hôpital Maison Blanche, Université Reims-Champagne Ardenne, France; C. PAYA, Service de Radiologie, unité de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, CHU, Rennes; F. EUGENE, Service de Radiologie, unité de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, CHU, Rennes; J. LE MOAL, service de Radiologie, unité de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, CHU Charles Nicolle, Rouen; C. PAPAGIANNAKI, service de Radiologie, unité de Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle, CHU Charles Nicolle, Rouen; M. AGGOUR, Department of Neuroradiology, CHU Saint-Étienne, France; M. BINTNER, Service de Neuroradiologie, CHU groupe hospitalier Sud-Réunion, Saint-Pierre; J.-B. VEYRIERES, Service de Neuroradiologie, CHU groupe hospitalier Sud-Réunion, Saint-Pierre; J. S. RICHTER, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, University Hospital of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France; R. POP, Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, University Hospital of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France; A. CONSOLI, Service de Neuroradiologie Diagnostique et Thérapeutique, Hôpital Foch, 40 rue Worth 92150 Suresnes, France; F. DI-MARIA, Service de Neuroradiologie Diagnostique et Thérapeutique, Hôpital Foch, 40 rue Worth 92150 Suresnes, France; C. ARTEAGA, Service de Radiologie, Hôpital d'Instruction des armées SAINTE ANNE, TOULON; J. DARICOURT, service de neuroradiologie diagnostique et interventionnelle du CHU de Toulouse, Hôpital Pierre Paul Riquet; C. MICHELOZZI, service de neuroradiologie diagnostique et interventionnelle du CHU de Toulouse, Hôpital Pierre Paul Riquet; P. GUEDIN, Service de Radiologie, Clinique Des Cèdres, Chateau D'Alliez, 31700 Cornebarrieu; D. HERBRETEAU, University Hospital of Tours, Neuroradiology Department, Tours, France; A. LE BRAS, University Hospital of Tours, Neuroradiology Department, Tours, France.

Abstract

Background and purpose: Mechanical thrombectomy (MT) has dramatically changed the landscape of stroke care as well as stroke care organization. Public health institutions are faced with the challenge of swiftly providing equal access to this high technical level procedure with rapidly broadening indications, and constantly developing techniques. The aim of this study was to present a current nationwide overview of technical MT practices in France as well as local organizations.

Materials and methods: Thrombectomy capable French stroke centers, and physicians performing MT were invited to participate to a nationwide survey, disseminated through an existing trainee-led research network (the JENI-RC) under the aegis of the French Society of Neuroradiology. The survey was composed of 64 questions to collect both individual practices and general center-based information.

Results: All French centers (100 %) answered the survey, and 74% (110/148) of active interventional neuroradiologists (INR) performing MT completed individual questionnaires. The mean number of INR per center performing MT was 3.7 ± 1.85 , and 85% of the centers were organized for 24/7 continuity of care. MRI was the most commonly used imaging modality for stroke diagnosis and patients' selection, and perfusion imaging was routinely available in 85% of the centers. Half of centers performed yearly between 100 and 200 MT. Anesthesiologic, and technical considerations are also developed in the manuscript.

Conclusions: This nationwide survey highlights the impressive response to the challenge of reorganization of stroke care with regards to mechanical thrombectomy in France. Technical and management disparities remain. Most centers remain understaffed to properly function in the long term, but the inflow of INT trainees is substantial.

Abbreviations

AIS, acute ischemic stroke; ASPECTS, Alberta stroke program early CT score; DWI, Diffusion weighted imaging; INR, Interventional neuroradiologist; JENI, Jeunes en neuroradiologie interventionnelle; LVO, Large vessel occlusion; MRS, Modified Rankin Scale; MT, Mechanical thrombectomy; NIHSS, National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale; PWI, Perfusion weighted imaging; SFNR, French Society of Neuroradiology; TCSC, Thrombectomy-capable stroke center.

Keywords

Stroke; Thrombectomy; Endovascular; Report; Survey

Introduction

Mechanical thrombectomy (MT) has dramatically changed the landscape of stroke care as well as stroke care organization for patients with acute ischemic stroke (AIS) due to large vessel occlusion (LVO). [1,2]. Public health institutions have been faced with the challenge of swiftly providing equal access to this high technical level procedure. In this context, beyond the complexity of regional stroke networks, and care chain at play to maximize the number of AIS-LVO patients receiving MT, this shift has importantly increased the workload at thrombectomy-capable stroke centers (TCSC), prompting local reorganization, mandating staff increase, and the opening of new MT capable centers in previously depleted areas so as to minimize delays to treatment and best fit to regional specificities. Further, indications have broadened and technical developments likely led to changes in individual practitioner's approaches to patients' selection, technical strategies for revascularization, as well as peri-procedural management, but these changes remain undocumented in real word environments. Altogether there is a lack of informative large-scale data on technical practices and centers' organization with regards to MT after guidelines modifications, while they may positively inform institutions, and provide a framework for improvement both logistically, for training planification and in terms of adherence to best practices.

The aim of this study was thus to present a current nationwide overview of technical MT practices in 2018-2019 in France, local organizations, and to compare these results with a previous survey conducted in 2012.

Materials and methods

Using the collaborative research network 'Jeunes en Neuroradiologie Interventionnelle' [3], and under the aegis of the French Society of Neuroradiology (SFNR), a survey was sent in January 2019 to a delegate physician, member of the network, at every TCSC in France.

The survey was based on the one used in 2012 and reported by Soize et al.[4], and included new questions to better fit to advances in stroke treatment and indications evolutions.

The survey was written in French and divided into two independent questionnaires:

- a questionnaire for each practitioner performing thrombectomy in autonomy, to collect individual responses about patient's selection and endovascular procedures
- a second questionnaire to collect general center-based informations regarding mechanical thrombectomy cases volume in 2018, imaging modalities used for patients' selection, anesthetic management, technical specificities, imaging follow-up, and unit organization

The final survey comprised a set of 64 questions, divided into 3 subheadings and is presented in the supplementary material.

Statistical analysis was performed with MedCalc.net statistical website (© 2019 MedCalc Software):

<https://www.medcalc.net>

Results

Between January 1st, 2019 and April 2019, we received responses from all French TCSC (40/40), and individual responses from 74 % (110/148) of senior interventional neuroradiologists (INR) working in France. Complementary data for each sub chapter is available in the Appendix of the supplemental material.

Case volume, centers, and teams

During the year 2018, a total of 6 704 MT procedures were reported in 38 centers (2 TCSC with less than 50 MT were excluded because accurate case volume was not recorded). The mean number of MT performed by TCSC was 176.4 ± 115.4 , median 147.

Mechanical thrombectomy was available around the clock in 34/40 institutions (85%). Two centers (5%) had a convention with a distinct TCSC to provide treatment during off-hours.

The mean number of INR qualified for MT procedures per center was 3.7 ± 1.85 , median 4. Thirteen TCSC (13/40, 32.5%) teams comprised 1 or 2 INR to perform MT, 16 TCSC (40%) had 3 or 4 INR involved, and 11 TCSC (27.5%) had more than 4. The total number of INR performing MT in France was 148, representing 134.6 full-time INR (and among them, 110 answered the questionnaire).

Twenty-eight TCSC (28/40, 70%) used a single angio-suite dedicated to neuro-interventional procedures, or two angio-suites (7/40, 17.5%), or three (1/40, 2.5%), and 4 TCSC (4/40, 10%) shared the angio-suite with other specialties during working hours. Off hours local organizations were more mixed.

Correspondents were asked how many additional practitioners they required to ensure actual and future needs for MT: 12/40 TCSC (30%) needed 1 more INR, 18 TCSC (45%) needed 2 more INR, 3 TCSC (7.5%) needed 3 more INR, and 1 TCSC (2.5%) needed 5 more INR for a total of 62 additional INR needed. Six TCSC (15%) declared being adequately staffed. At the time of the survey, 90% of TCSC had trainees (fellows or INR residents), including 21/40 TCSC (52.5%) training 1 or 2 INR, 10/40 TCSC (25%) training 3 or 4 INR, 5/40 TCSC (12.5%) training ≥ 5 INR, for a total of 91 INR in training, of which 57 intended to work in France after training completion.

Patients selection and imaging follow-up

MRI was the most commonly used imaging modality (34/40 TCSC, 85%) for screening patients with suspected acute stroke, while 6 TCSC (6/40, 15%) used CT. Among MRI users: 13/34 TCSC (38.2%) used 1.5T MRI, 13/34 TCSC (38.2%) used 3T MRI, and 8/34 TCSC (23.6%) used both 1.5 and 3T MRI. Concerning these centers, protocols were the same in routine with DWI, FLAIR, intracranial TOF-MRA. Variations were observed for the use of specific sequences: T2* (27/34, 79.4%), susceptibility-weighted MR sequences (7/34, 20.6%), T2*-weighted perfusion imaging (12/34, 35.3%), cervical MRA (21/34, 61.8%), or ASL perfusion (1/34, 2.9%). The majority of the TCSC (25/34, 73.5%) performed MRI stroke protocol in less than 15 minutes, and between 15 and 20 minutes for 9/34 TCSC (26.5%).

For the 6 TCSC using CT, protocol was similar including cervical vessels CTA and CT perfusion. Two TCSC (2/6, 33.3%) routinely acquired a heart CT searching for cardiac thrombus.

INR were asked what clinical and/or imaging data led them to decline MT among 15 proposals (see details in Table 1). Two exclusion criteria were exceeding the average: previous autonomy loss (mRS > 2) (65/106, 61.3%) and hemorrhagic transformation (61/106, 57.5%). Most of them were keen to perform MT regardless of delay since onset, as long as there was a persistent diffusion/clinical mismatch (74/110, 67.3%) or DWI/PWI mismatch (64/110, 58.2%).

Follow-up imaging was dominated by 24 hours CT (see details of follow up imaging modalities in Figure 1).

Endovascular procedure

Most of the TCSC (36/40, 90%) had an anesthetic team available anytime. For anterior circulation, most TCSC started procedures with conscious sedation secondary switched into general anesthesia if needed according to the clinical situation for carotid occlusion (15/40, 37.5%), or middle cerebral artery occlusion (17/40, 42.5%). Only 14 TCSC (35%) and 10 TCSC (25%) used systematic general anesthesia for carotid occlusion or middle cerebral artery occlusion respectively.

Conversely, for basilar artery occlusion 21/40 TCSC (52.5%) started procedures directly with general anesthesia, or with conscious sedation secondary turned into general anesthesia 13/40 (32.5 %) detailed in Figure 2.

When starting MT procedure, most of INR (98/110, 89.1%) explored only the occluded vessel, while 12 INR (10.9 %) evaluated the whole intracranial circulation. In case of catheterization failure through femoral artery, INR chose different approaches resumed in Figure 3.

Eighteen INR (16.4%) used a balloon guide catheter for all procedures, and 39 (35.5%) never used it. The majority of INR (60/110, 54.5%) used combined stent-retriever with distal aspiration catheter as first line approach, while 27.3% and 18.2% used aspiration or stent-retriever respectively.

Only 28/110 INR (25.5%) used intra-arterial fibrinolysis following a thrombectomy: to treat distal embolization (23/28, 82.1%), in case of MT failure (9/28, 32.1%), or systematically (2/23, 8.7%).

During MT, 88 INR (88/110, 80%) did not use heparin, while 15 (13.6%) used a single bolus and 7 (6.4%) used a bolus with a maintained dose.

Comparison with 2012 survey

We were unable to perform formal statistical analyses to compare the results of 2012 and the current survey, as data elements were not acquired in a similar way (center versus operator). Yet, several important differences in practices stand out in numerical comparisons.

First, in 2012 the median number of MT performed at each center was 30 [IQR: 17—43], versus 147 [IQR: 101-248] in 2018, representing a fivefold increase. Conversely, the mean number of INR performing MT at each center only increased from a mean $2.9 \pm \text{SD } 0.9$ to 3.7 ± 1.8 .

Regarding more technical aspects, notably the routine use of perfusion imaging increased from 42% to 76% and operators were more systematically switching to a second (rescue) device after failed attempts with a first device (48% in 2012 versus 81% in 2018). Detailed comparative assessment is provided in Table 2.

Discussion

Here we highlight several key aspects of the real-world response to the challenge posed by MT at a national level, as well as the evolution of practices and local organizations at TCSC, and present a snapshot of MT practices for the year 2018 at a nationwide level in France.

The validation and resulting considerable increase in MT procedures volumes between the first national survey of MT practices reported in 2014 [4], has led to major local re-organizations, case approaches changes and standardization. According to national statistics and the results of the present study, MT procedures have increased seven fold between 2012 and 2018 ($925 > 6704$) [4], and more than 20% between 2017 and 2018. Since 2012, time of the previous survey, 7 additional TCSC have opened, leading up to 40 TCSC, but the number of INR qualified for MT remains low in most centers (3.7 ± 1.85 , median 4), resulting in a high case volume per operator (45.8 ± 19.4 , median 41,9) and an insufficient increase in the number of trained INR performing MT. This explains the fact that only 15% of centers declared being adequately staffed at the time of survey while MT remains a complex procedure with the majority of INR (60/110, 54.5%) using combined stent-retriever with distal aspiration catheter as first line approach. To our knowledge, no such data have been published from other countries, yet the global challenge of stroke care re-organization makes it likely that similar disparities and shortage in trained physicians exist worldwide. On a very positive note, 90% of centers were actively training at least one or two future INR, and 37.5% trained 3 or more, emphasizing the globalized response to the challenge of MT in France, with an increased projection of a 38% increase in the workforce at existing centers, in the 2 coming years only.

Formal statistical analyses cannot be performed when comparing declarative data from individual practitioners regarding MT practices, or general data on routine selection and organization methods at the center level. Yet, it is important to note that 85% of the TCSC used MRI versus only 64% in 2012, underlying a better organization for access to acute MRI in France, despite relative low national dotation.

Improvements in patients' selection pathways are also reflected by the higher routine availability of perfusion imaging, especially among MRI users (82.9%, 29/35 versus 35.5%, 11/31 in 2012), a result

that should be put in the perspective of the fact that responses were registered before the publication of updated guidelines for patients in the extended time window [5–8].

In that sense, patients' selection was per the results of this survey largely based on expected benefit of mechanical revascularization, rather than strict applications of minimal standards for indication set by international guidelines, and reflecting the diversity of real-world practices. For instance, time delay since onset of symptoms was not a major determinant for declining MT, since most of INR reported that they did not decline MT when there was clinical mismatch (67.3%) or DWI-PWI mismatch (58.2%) regardless of delay since symptoms onset while it was respectively 16.1% and 9.7% of TCSC in 2012.

In the survey, four predominant situations were perceived as a non-indication for endovascular treatment by operators: previous autonomy loss ($mRS > 2$) (61.3%), hemorrhagic transformation (57.5%), no DWI-PWI mismatch (45.3%), and midline displacement (44.3%).

A limitation of this study is that declarations of the respondents cannot be controlled, and a single INR per center was designated to complete the online questionnaire for collecting general center based informations. This potential bias is limited by the use of protocols and standardization of MT at most TCSC. Also, we were unable to include patients' radiation exposure during MT. Future studies comparing MT in France should include dosimetry comparison, while MT is not yet included in the last French Diagnostic Reference Levels of the 23 May 2019 [9-10].

Furthermore, the results of this survey present a snapshot of MT practices in France at a specific time point and might be different at the time of results publication.

Conclusions

This survey, with an exhaustive response rate of 40/40 TCSC (100%) and 74.3% of INR (110/148) provides a snapshot of MT practices and adherences to guidelines by interventional neuroradiologists in France. Further, it yields a framework for appreciating local needs, regional organizations and national training and position needs at thrombectomy capable centers. Future efforts should be aimed at opening more senior positions at active TCSCs, so as to ensure long term sustainability and adequate staffing.

Disclosures

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank all their colleagues who agreed to participate to this survey, the JENI-RC and the SFNR. The whole list of participating centers is available in the Appendix A.

References

- [1] Bracard S, Ducrocq X, Mas JL, Soudant M, Oppenheim C, Moulin T, et al. Mechanical thrombectomy after intravenous alteplase versus alteplase alone after stroke (THRACE): a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Neurol* 2016;15:1138–47. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(16\)30177-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(16)30177-6).
- [2] Goyal M, Menon BK, van Zwam WH, Dippel DWJ, Mitchell PJ, Demchuk AM, et al. Endovascular thrombectomy after large-vessel ischaemic stroke: a meta-analysis of individual patient data from five randomised trials. *The Lancet* 2016;387:1723–31. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)00163-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)00163-X).
- [3] A call for junior interventional neuroradiologists to join the JENI-Research Collaboration. *J Neuroradiol* 2018;45:341–2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurad.2018.06.001>.
- [4] Soize S, Naggara O, Desal H, Costalat V, Ricolfi F, Pierot L. Endovascular treatment of acute ischemic stroke in France: A nationwide survey. *J Neuroradiol* 2014;41:71–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurad.2013.12.002>.
- [5] Nogueira RG, Jadhav AP, Haussen DC, Bonafe A, Budzik RF, Bhuva P, et al. Thrombectomy 6 to 24 Hours after Stroke with a Mismatch between Deficit and Infarct. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:11–21. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1706442>.
- [6] Albers GW, Marks MP, Kemp S, Christensen S, Tsai JP, Ortega-Gutierrez S, et al. Thrombectomy for Stroke at 6 to 16 Hours with Selection by Perfusion Imaging. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:708–18. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1713973>.
- [7] Powers WJ, Rabinstein AA, Ackerson T, Adeoye OM, Bambakidis NC, Becker K, et al. Guidelines for the Early Management of Patients With Acute Ischemic Stroke: 2019 Update to the 2018 Guidelines for the Early Management of Acute Ischemic Stroke: A Guideline for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke* 2019;50. <https://doi.org/10.1161/STR.0000000000000211>.
- [8] Turc G, Bhogal P, Fischer U, Khatri P, Lobotesis K, Mazighi M, et al. European Stroke Organisation (ESO) - European Society for Minimally Invasive Neurological Therapy (ESMINT)

Guidelines on Mechanical Thrombectomy in Acute Ischemic Stroke. J NeuroInterventional Surg 2019;neurintsurg-2018-014569. <https://doi.org/10.1136/neurintsurg-2018-014569>.

[9] Ognard J, Bourhis D, Anxionnat R, Ben Salem D. New french diagnostic reference levels: Let's take stock of our daily practices! J Neuroradiol. 2019 Nov;46(6):341-342. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurad.2019.08.001>.

[10] Farah J, Rouchaud A, Henry T, Regen C, Mihalea C, Moret J, Spelle L. Dose reference levels and clinical determinants in stroke neuroradiology interventions. Eur Radiol. 2019;29(2):645–53. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-018-5593-x>.

Figures

Figure 1: Imaging modalities for follow-up after MT for AIS

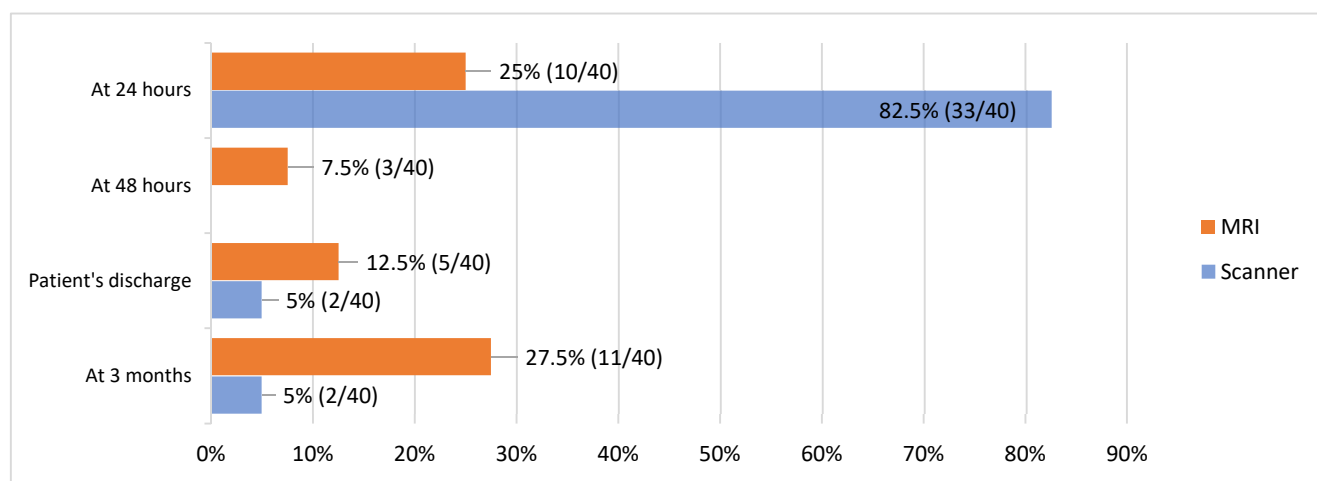


Figure 2: Anesthetic considerations according to occlusion localization

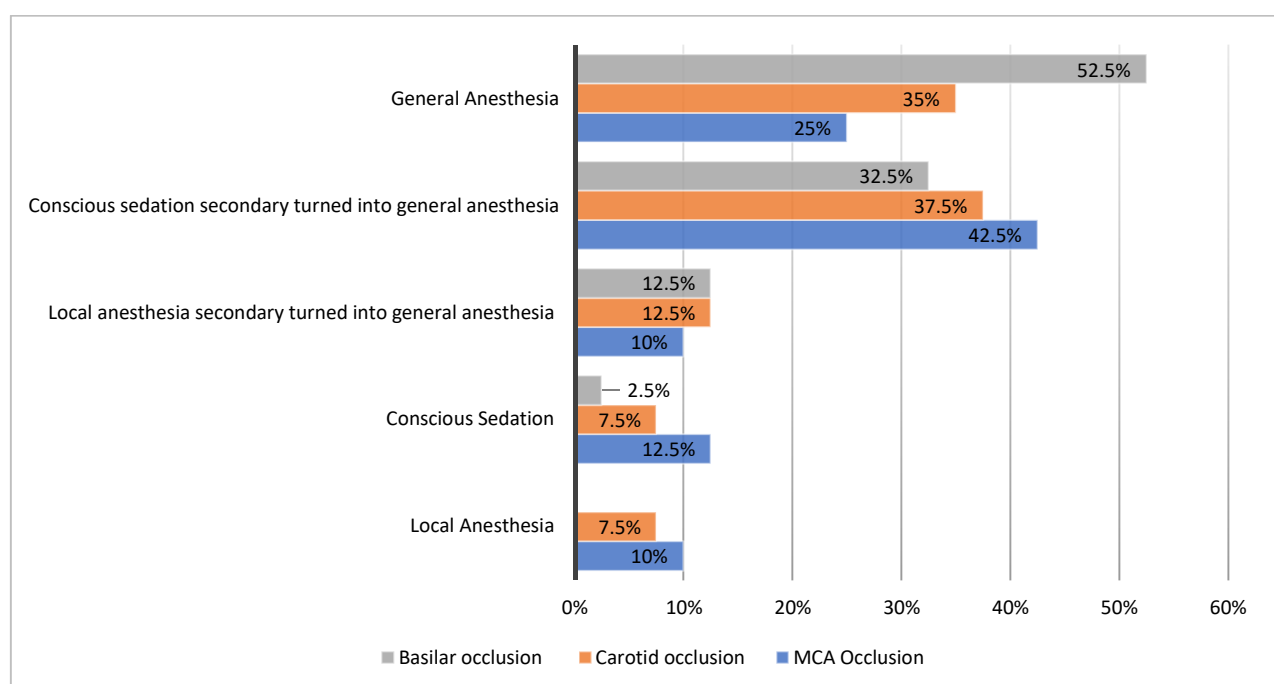
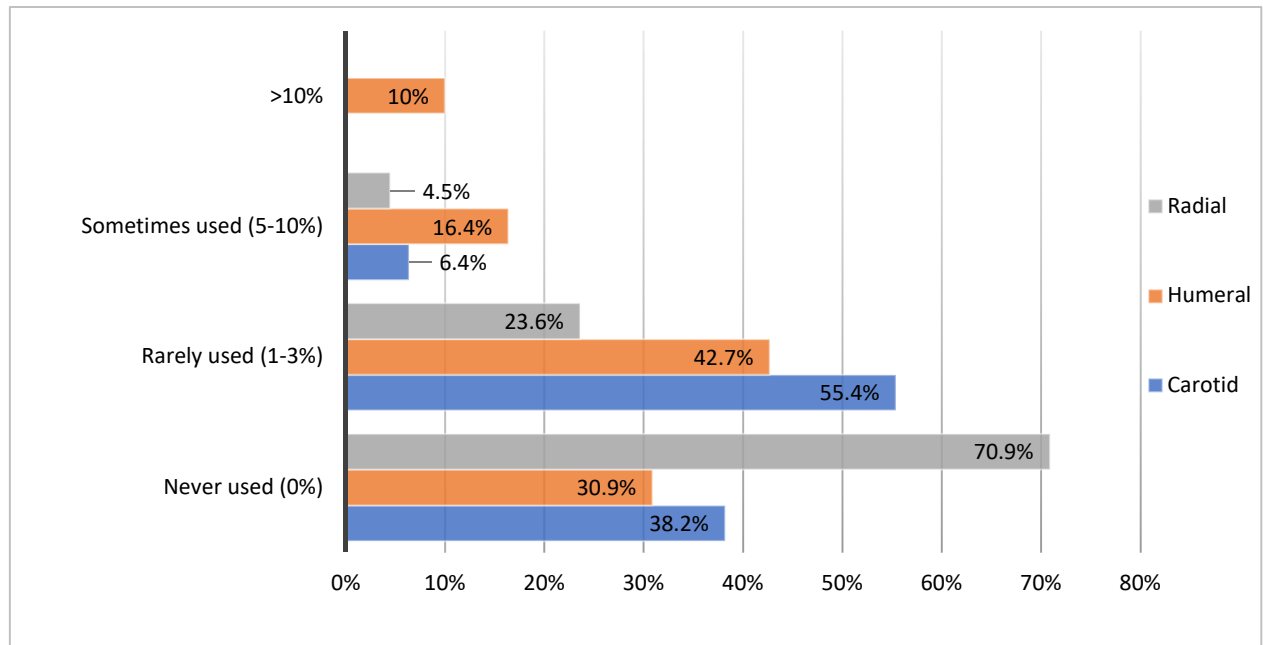


Figure 3: Proportion of arterial access used for MT per practitioner



Facing a difficult femoral approach, or a difficult carotid catheterization, what percentage of cases do you use carotid, humeral or radial approach for MT?

Tables

Table 1: Non-indication of the endovascular treatment of acute ischemic stroke according to INR

| Parameters | Number of positive responses | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Clinical examination | | |
| Low NIHSS (i.e. < 3 — 5) | 32 | 30.2 |
| High NIHSS (i.e. > 25) | 3 | 2.8 |
| Age > 90 years | 4 | 3.8 |
| Previous autonomy loss (mRS > 2) | 65 | 61.3 |
| Imaging finding | | |
| ASPECTS on DWI < 5 | 22 | 20.8 |
| ASPECTS on CT < 6 | 16 | 15.1 |
| Volume > 70 cm ³ on DWI | 9 | 8.5 |
| Flair positivity | 12 | 11.3 |
| No DWI-PWI mismatch | 48 | 45.3 |
| Haemorrhagic transformation | 61 | 57.5 |
| Severe leukoaraiosis | 1 | 0.9 |
| Tandem occlusion | 0 | 0 |
| Carotid T occlusion | 0 | 0 |
| Midline displacement | 47 | 44.3 |
| Other | 4 | 3.8 |

Table 2: Comparison of 2012 and 2018 similar data elements

| | 2012 | | 2018 | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | N | Percentage | N | Percentage |
| Response rate | 31/33 | 93.9 | 40/40 | 100 |
| MT around the clock | 25/31 | 80.6 | 34/40 | 85 |
| Mean number of INR performing MT | 2.9±0.9, median 3 | | 3.7±1.85, median 4 | |
| Mean number of MT per center | Median 30 [IQR : 17-43] | | Median 147 [IQR : 101-248] | |
| Number of centers using only MRI | 20/31 | 64.5 | 34/40 | 85 |
| Cervical MRA in routine | 11/31 | 35.5 | 21/34 | 61.8 |
| T2*-weighted perfusion imaging in routine | 11/26 | 42.3 | 26/34 | 76.5 |
| Cervical vessels CTA in routine | 10/11 | 90.9 | 6/6 | 100 |
| CT perfusion in routine | 9/11 | 81.8 | 6/6 | 100 |
| No delay for MT in case of DWI-PWI mismatch (anterior circulation) | 3/31 | 9.7 | 64/110 | 58.2 |
| No delay for MT in case of diffusion/clinical mismatch (anterior circulation) | 5/31 | 16.1 | 74/110 | 67.3 |
| Up to 24 hours for MT (Posterior circulation) | 9.5/31 | 30.6 | 53/110 | 48.2 |
| Dedicated anesthesia team available anytime | 27/31 | 87.1 | 36/40 | 90 |
| Bridging approach | 11/31 | 35.5 | 34/40 | 85 |
| Use of a second device when MT failed with the first device | 15/31 | 48.4 | 88/108 | 81.5 |
| Use of a balloon-catheter | 17.5/31 | 56.5 | 71/110 | 64.5 |
| Assessment of the whole intracranial circulation at the beginning of MT | 11/31 | 35.5 | 12/110 | 10.9 |
| Use of heparin during MT | 16.5/31 | 53.2 | 22/110 | 20 |
| Use of intra-arterial fibrinolysis following a MT | 16/31 | 51.6 | 28/110 | 25.5 |

Graphical abstract

Not applicable.