

# Ruolo della RMN nell'Ictus Ischemico Acuto

Criteria WAKE-UP, ECASS IV, EXTEND, EPITHET, DAWN e DEFUSE 3



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LASCIA IL SEGNO

## Inclusion Criteria

- Acute stroke with “last known normal” time > 4.5 hrs (no upper time limit)
- Treatment can be started within 4.5 hours of symptom recognition (e.g., awakening)
- Met standard eligibility criteria for the use of alteplase
- Had DWI-FLAIR mismatch (abnormal signal on DWI and no marked signal change on FLAIR in the region of the acute stroke).

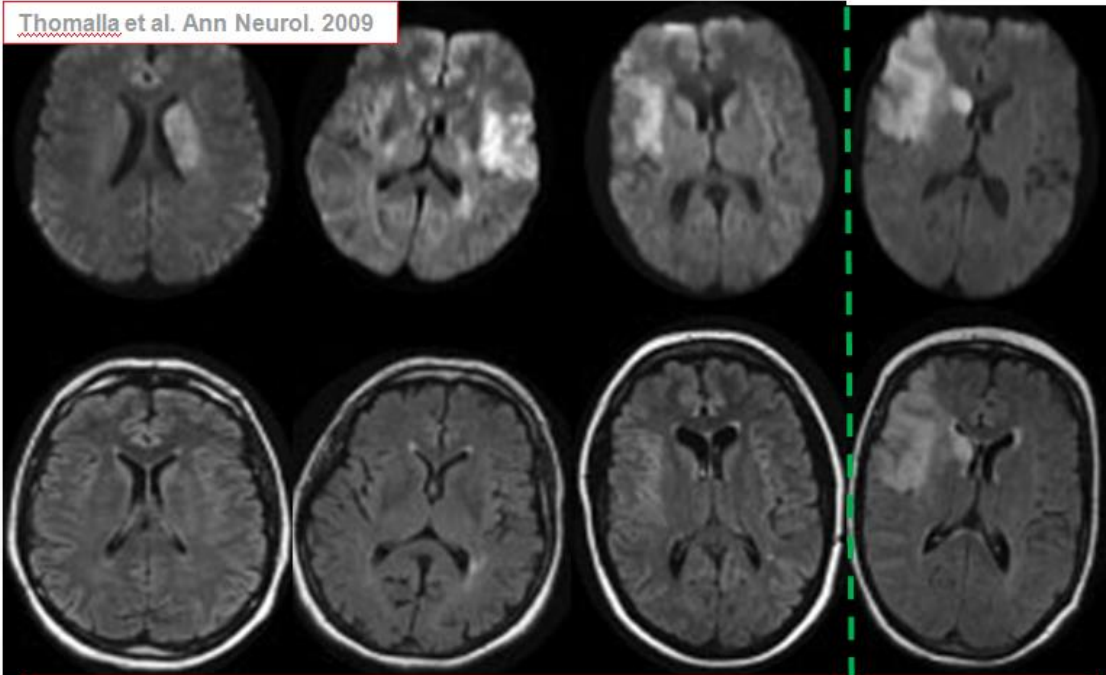
## ▪ Excluded:

- **Large strokes** > 1/3 of MCA or NIHSS > 25 or > 50% of the anterior cerebral artery (ACA) or posterior cerebral artery (PCA) territory (visual inspection) or > 100 ml
- FLAIR showing a marked parenchymal hyperintensity in a region corresponding to the acute DWI lesion indicative of an acute ischemic lesion with a high likelihood of being > 4.5 hours old
- Planned thrombectomy

The primary endpoint was mRS = 0-1 at 90 days

# Positive DWI, Negative FLAIR may identify Strokes < 4.5 hours old

Thomalla et al. Ann Neurol. 2009



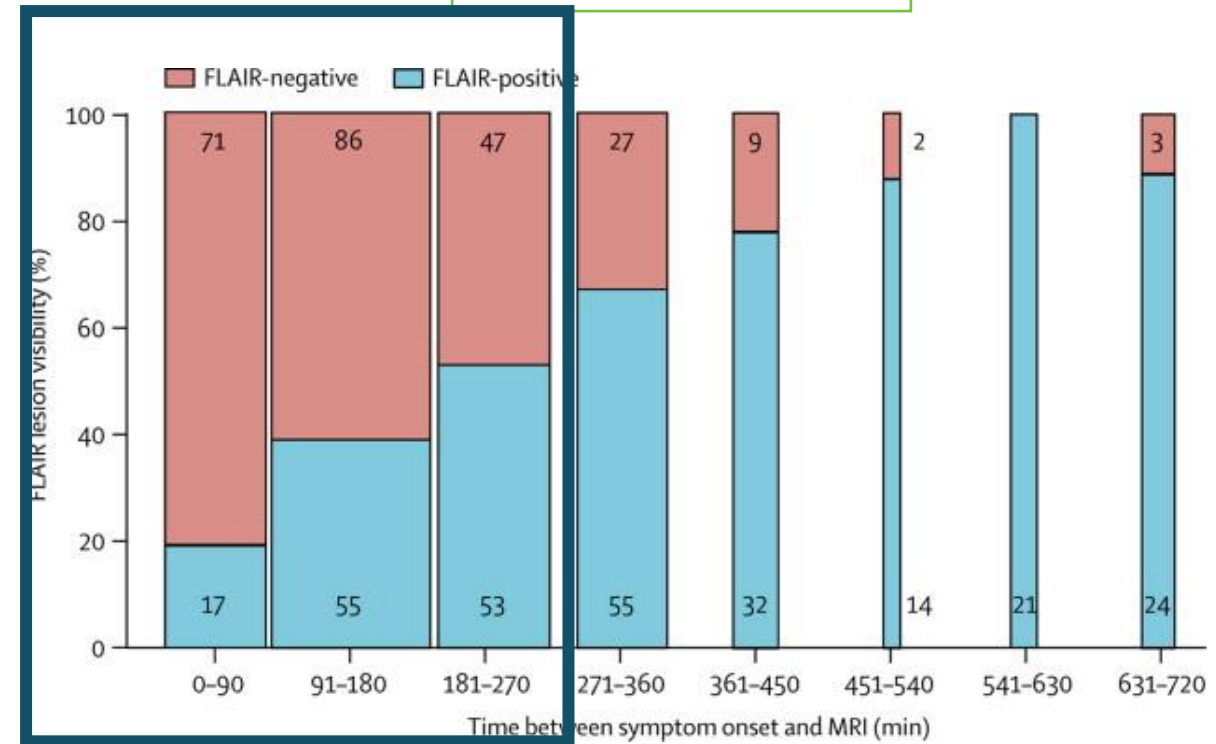
90 min

125 min

130 min

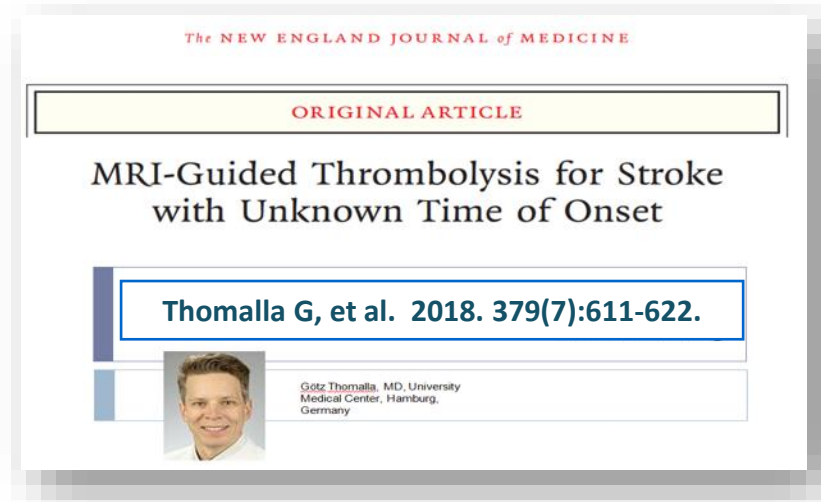
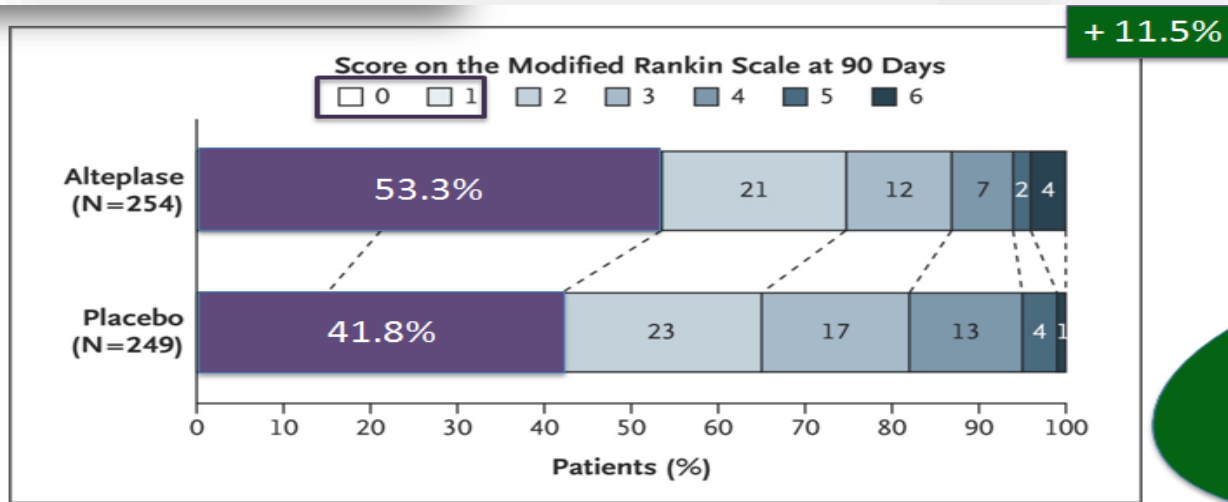
282 min

Thomalia et al Lancet Neurol 2011



*DWI-FLAIR mismatch identified patients within 4.5 h of symptom onset with*

- **62% (95% CI 57–67) sensitivity,**
- **78% (72–84) specificity,**
- **83% (79–88) positive predictive value,**
- **54% (48–60) negative predictive value.**



Conclusions:

In patients with acute stroke with an unknown time of onset, intravenous alteplase guided by a mismatch between diffusion-weighted imaging and FLAIR in the region of ischemia resulted in a significantly better functional outcome and numerically more intracranial hemorrhages than placebo at 90 days.

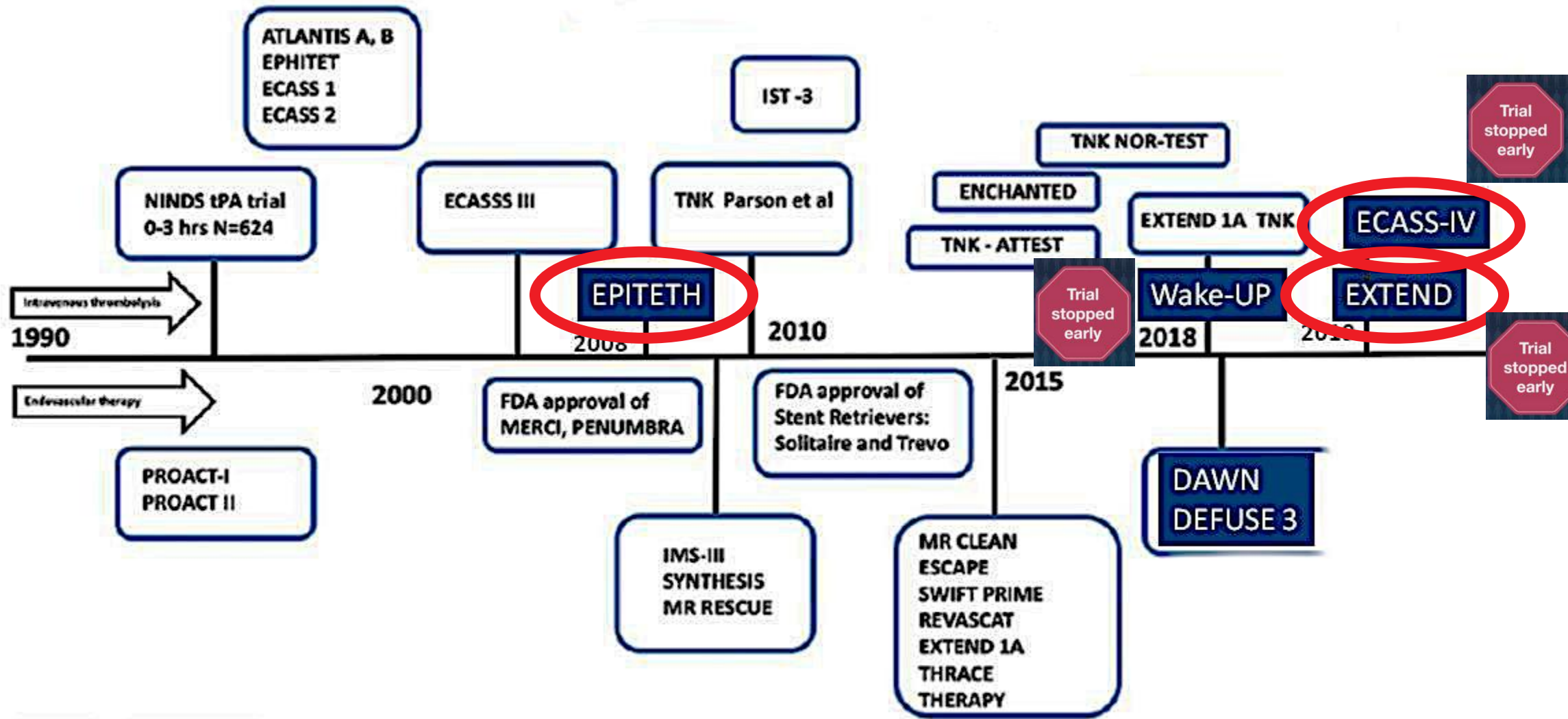
“Our trial provides evidence of benefit from reperfusion treatment with alteplase in patients with minor or moderate stroke who would not usually be eligible for endovascular treatment”.

# Wake-UP Stroke Trial

## Criticisms

- Trial was stopped prematurely due to lack of funding
- Small number of patients with NIHSS >10, limiting generalizability to that group
- 20% of patients enrolled in the trial could have qualified for thrombectomy in DAWN and DEFUSE 3





# EPITHET Stroke Trial

## Echoplanar Imaging Thrombolytic Evaluation Trial (EPITHET)

### Hypothesis

**Alteplase given 3–6 h after stroke onset promotes reperfusion and attenuates infarct growth in patients who have a mismatch in perfusion-weighted MRI (PWI) and diffusion-weighted MRI (DWI)**

- DWI at baseline and day 3–5 and T2-weighted lesions at day 90 were assessed by two independent raters who used standard planimetric software (Analyze 7.0; Biomedical Imaging Resource, Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN, USA)



**PWI–DWI volume  $\geq 10$  mL**  
**PWI $\div$ DWI volume  $>1,2$**

**DWI**  
 **$<70$  ml**

# EPITHET Stroke Trial

*Lancet Neurol* 2008; 7: 299–309

52 patients to alteplase and 49 patients to placebo

## Inclusion Criteria

- Patients with acute hemispheric ischaemic stroke who presented 3–6 h after symptom onset,
- 18 years of age or older,
- NIHSS>4,
- premorbid modified Rankin score (mRS) of 2 or less.

## Endpoint

- **The primary endpoint was infarct growth between baseline DWI and the day 90 T2 lesion in mismatch patients.**
- Major secondary endpoints were reperfusion, good neurological outcome, and good functional outcome.



# EPITHET Stroke Trial

*Lancet Neurol* 2008; 7: 299–309

## RESULTS

Alteplase was non-significantly associated with **lower infarct growth** and significantly associated with **increased reperfusion** in patients who had mismatch.

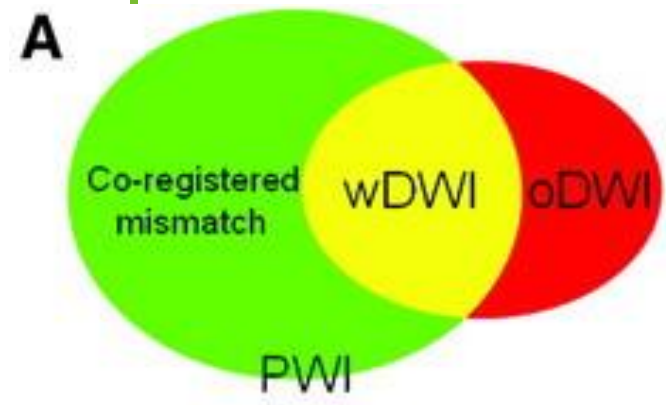
**Because reperfusion was associated with improved clinical outcomes, phase III trials beyond 3 h after treatment are warranted.**

	Alteplase	Placebo	Difference or ratio (95% CI)*	p
Infarct growth	n=37	n=43		
Primary analytical method: geometric mean	1.24	1.78	0.69† (0.38 to 1.28)	0.239
Secondary analytical methods				
Median relative growth	1.18 (0.49 to 2.42)	1.79 (1.09 to 3.15)	0.66† (0.36 to 0.92)	0.054
Median absolute growth (mL)	4.1 (-5.29 to 57.11)	28.7 (1.01 to 64.2)	-24.6 (-40.6 to 3.2)	0.126
Mean difference in cube root volumes (cm)	0.50 (1.59)	0.75 (1.06)	-0.25 (-0.84 to 0.35)	0.415
Additional analytical methods				
Growth >0%	20 (54%)	33 (77%)	-23% (-43 to -2)	0.032
Baseline DWI lesions >5 mL				
Geometric mean growth‡	1.11	1.99	-0.56† (0.33 to 0.94)	0.028
Median relative growth‡	1.19 (0.50 to 2.36)	2.05 (1.28 to 3.25)	-0.58† (0.34 to 0.94)	0.014
Reperfusion assessed	n=34	n=43		
Reperfusion ≥90%	19 (56%)	11 (26%)	30% (9 to 51)	0.010
Median percentage reperfusion	91% (41 to 100)	65% (16 to 93)	26% (5 to 65)	0.045
Recanalisation assessed	n=19	n=28		
Recanalisation	14 (74%)	16 (57%)	17% (-10 to 44)	0.356
Clinical outcomes	n=42	n=43		
Good neurological outcome	21 (50%)	16 (37%)	13% (-8 to 34)	0.278
mRS 0–2	19 (45%)	17 (40%)	5% (-15 to 27)	0.663
mRS 0–1	15 (36%)	9 (21%)	15% (-4 to 34)	0.153

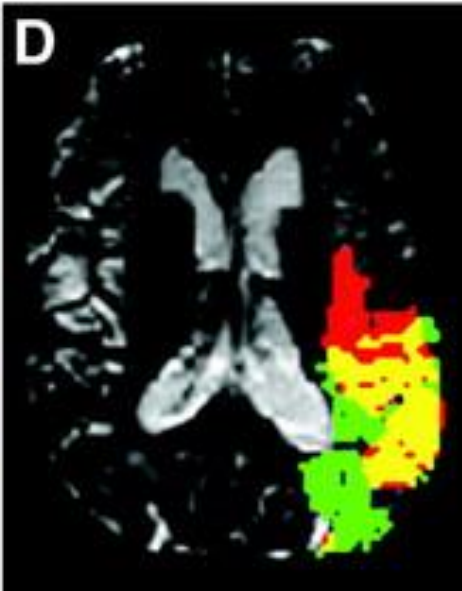
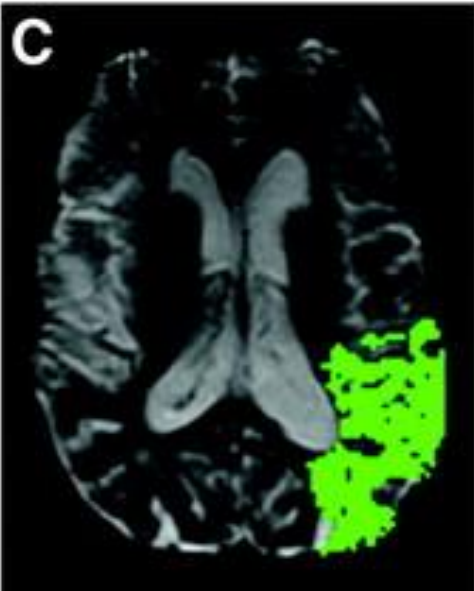
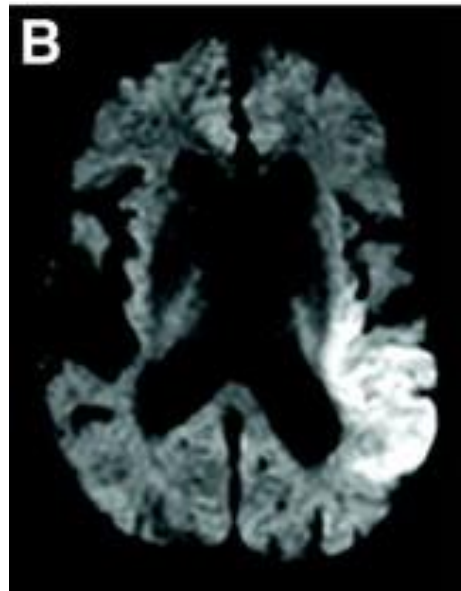
Data are mean (SD), number (%) of patients, or median (IQR). \*Difference of average or percentage for alteplase minus that for placebo, unless indicated as a ratio. †Ratios. ‡Data for patients with baseline lesion >5 mL: 31 (84%) in the alteplase group and 38 (88%) in the placebo group.

Jan 2011

Yoshinari Nagakane. Stroke. EPITHET, Volume: 42, Issue: 1, Pages: 59-64, DOI: (10.1161/STROKEAHA.110.580464)



$$\text{Co-registered MV} = \text{PWI} - \text{wDWI}$$
$$\text{Volumetric MV} = \text{PWI} - (\text{wDWI} + \text{oDWI})$$



When using coregistration techniques to determine the presence of mismatch at study entry, alteplase significantly attenuated infarct growth. This highlights the necessity for a randomized, placebo-controlled, phase III clinical trial of alteplase using penumbral selection beyond 3 hours.

# ECASS4 Stroke Trial

Int J Stroke 2019 Jul;14(5):483-490.

*Extending the time window for intravenous thrombolysis in acute ischemic stroke using magnetic resonance imaging-based patient selection*

rt-PA or placebo

**Ischemic stroke patients presenting within 4.5 and 9 h of stroke onset, who fulfil clinical requirements:**

- National Institutes of Health Stroke Score (NIHSS) 4-26
- pre-stroke modified Rankin Scale (mRS) 0-1

**visual  
assessment of  
MRI  
perfusion-  
diffusion  
imaging**

**PWI-DWI volume  $\geq 20$  mL  
PWI $\div$ DWI volume  $> 1,2$**

**DWI  
<100 ml**

# ECASS4 Stroke Trial

Extending the time window  
for intravenous thrombolysis  
in acute ischemic stroke  
using magnetic resonance  
imaging-based patient selection

*Int J Stroke* 2019 Jul;14(5):483-490.

phase 3, randomized, multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled study.

**Trial  
stopped  
early**

*for slow recruitment after the  
enrollment of 119 (61  
alteplase, 58 placebo) of 264  
patients planned*

Intravenous alteplase  
administered between 4.5  
and 9 h after the onset of  
symptoms in patients with  
salvageable tissue **did not  
result** in a significant  
benefit over placebo

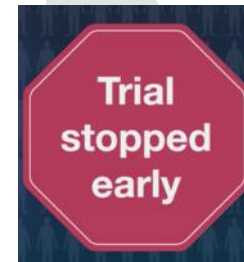
## EXTEND Stroke Trial

N Engl J Med 2019; 380:1795-1803

multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled trial involving patients with ischemic stroke who had hypoperfused but salvageable regions of brain **detected on automated perfusion imaging (CT/MRI)**

**rt-Pa or placebo  
between 4.5 and 9.0  
hours after the onset of  
stroke or on awakening  
with stroke (if within 9  
hours from the  
midpoint of sleep)**

The primary outcome was a score of 0 or 1 on the modified Rankin scale at 90 days



After 225 of the planned 310 patients had been enrolled, the trial was terminated because of a **loss of equipoise** after the publication of positive results from WAKE-UP trial

# EXTEND Stroke Trial

N Engl J Med 2019; 380:1795-1803

## Patients eligible for inclusion

- at least 18 years of age;
- a score of <2 on the modified Rankin scale
- NIHSS 4 to 26
- hypoperfused but salvageable regions of brain detected on automated perfusion imaging.

Automated  
assessment of  
MRI  
perfusion-  
diffusion  
imaging

PWI–DWI volume  $\geq 10$  mL  
PWI $\div$ DWI volume  $> 1,2$

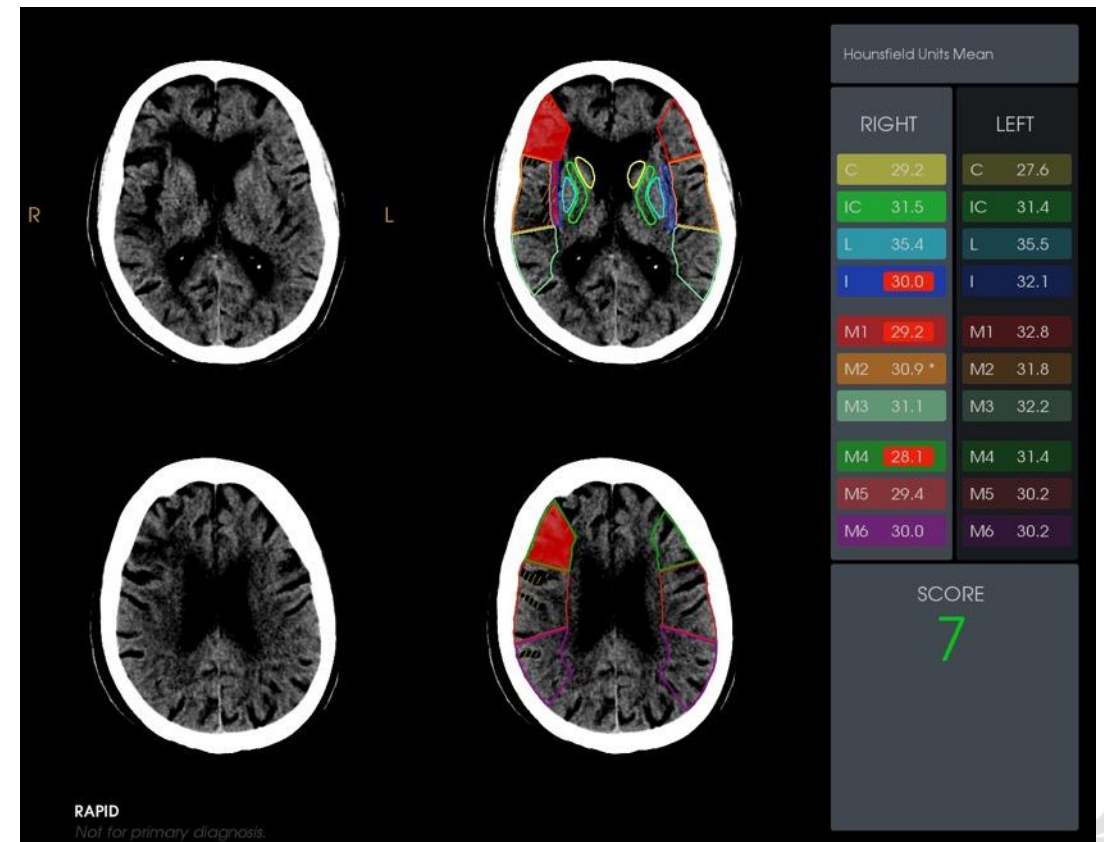
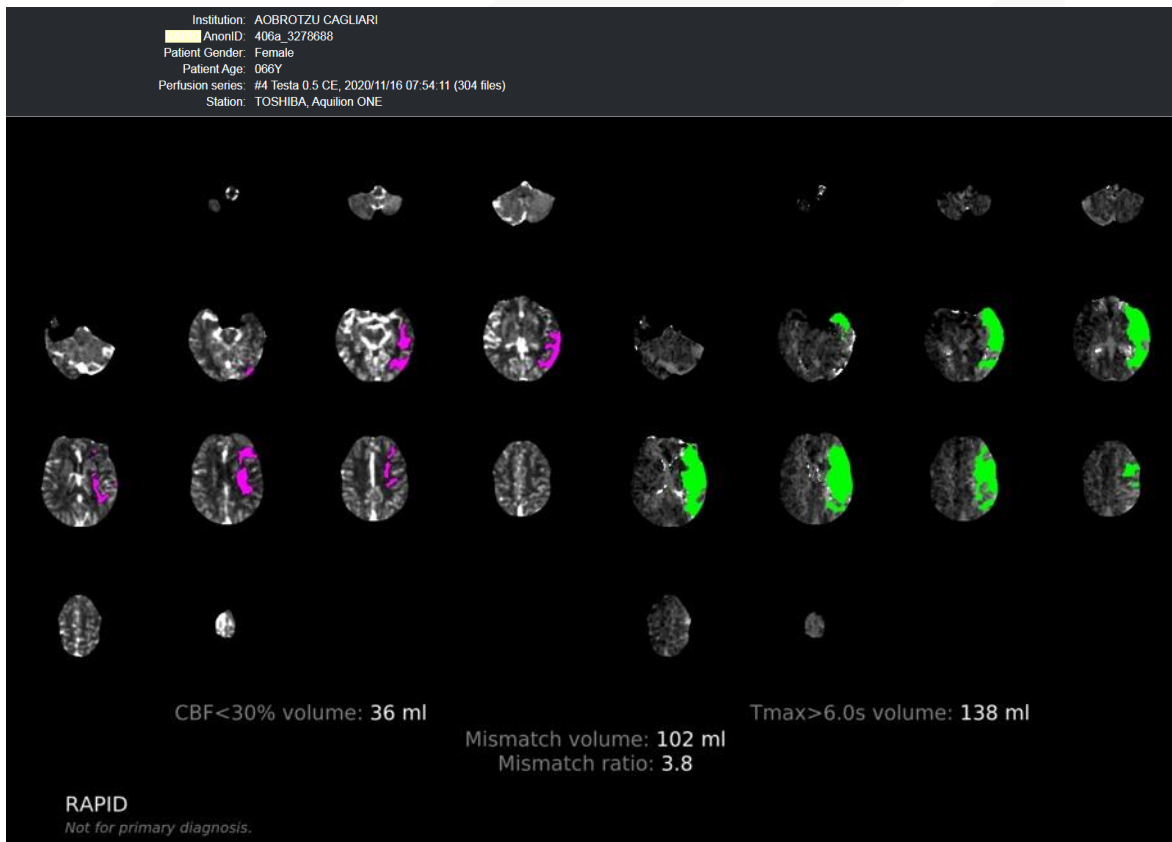
DWI  
<70 ml



# EXTEND Stroke Trial

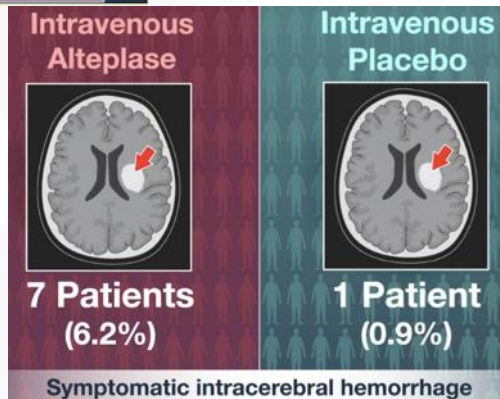
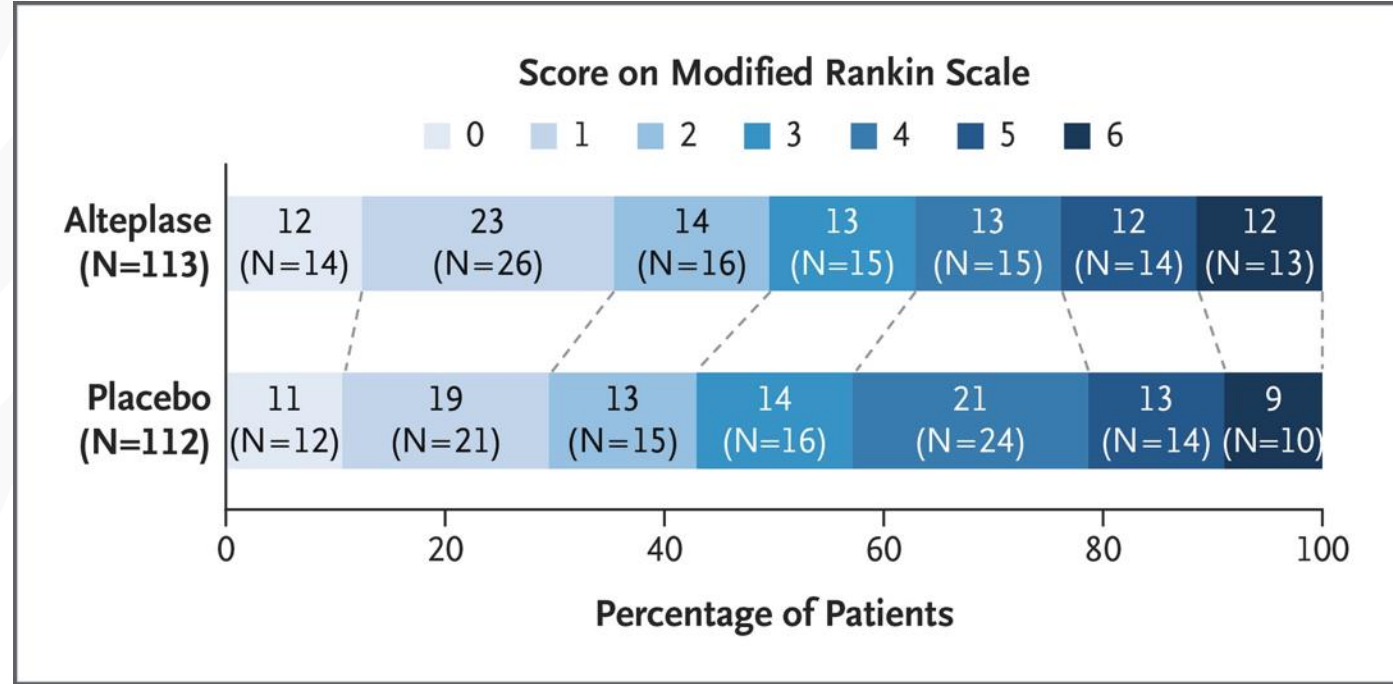
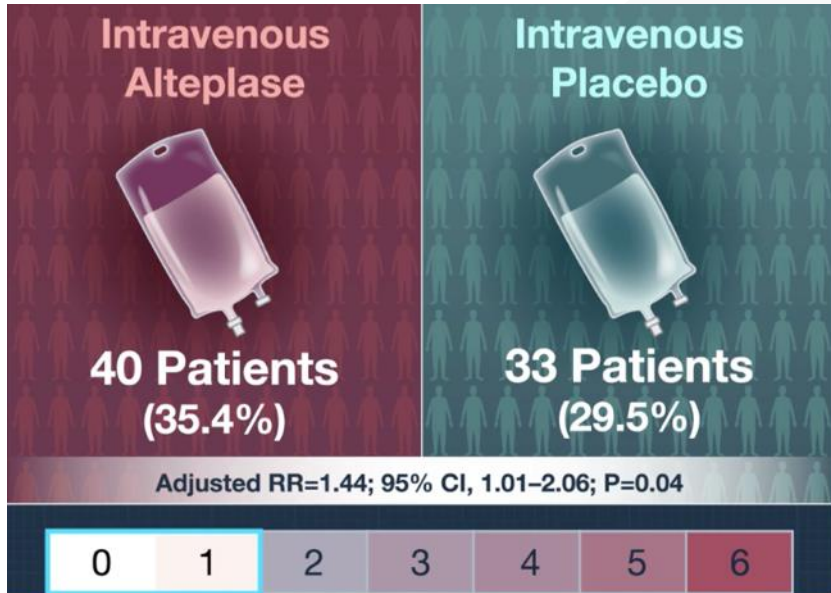
N Engl J Med 2019; 380:1795-1803

Automated  
assessment of  
MRI /CT  
imaging



# EXTEND Stroke Trial

N Engl J Med 2019; 380:1795-1803

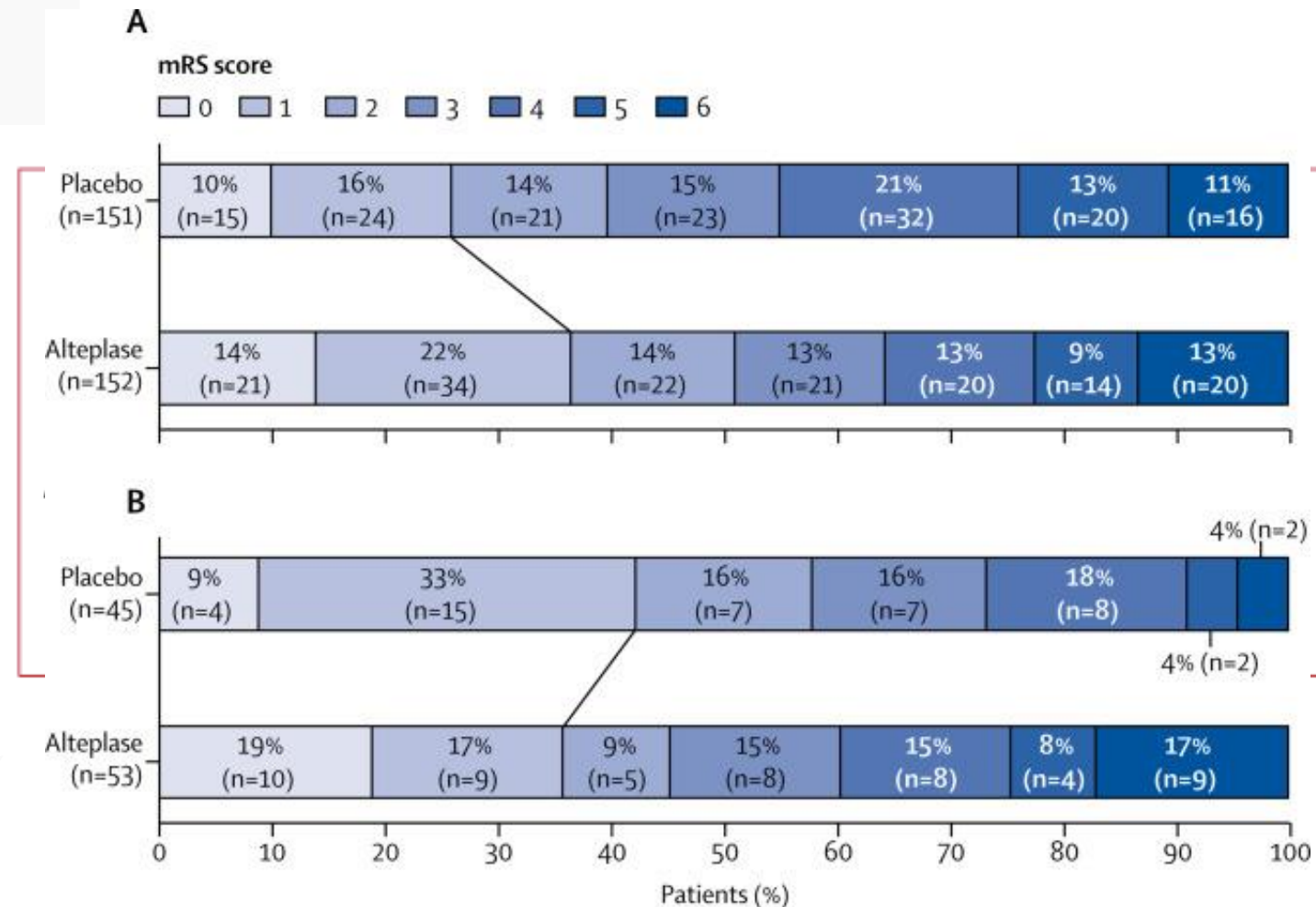


# A meta-analysis of individual patient data from EXTEND, ECASS4-EXTEND and EPITHET

Lancet 2019 Jul 13;394(10193):139-147.

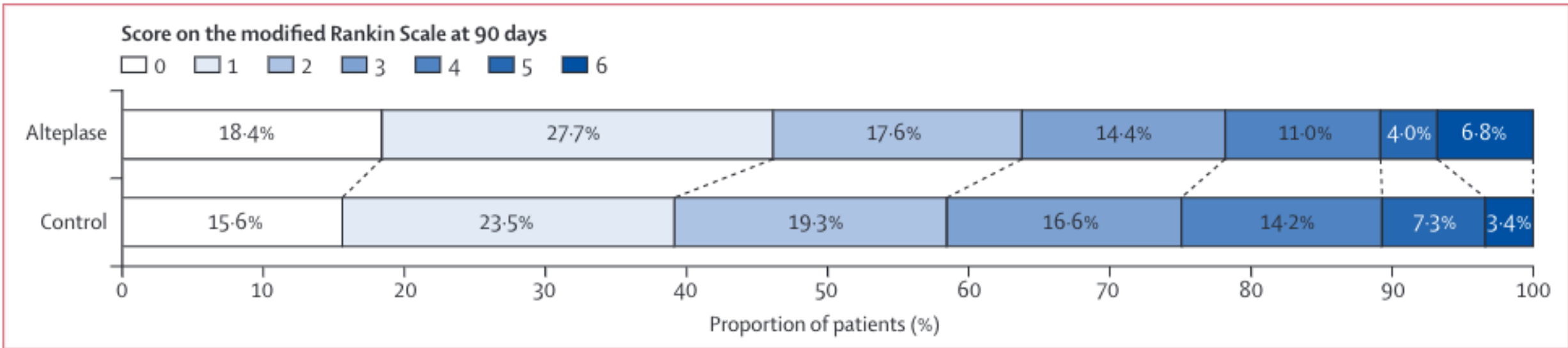
## Results

Alteplase improves excellent functional outcomes (mRS 0-1) at 3 months when administered 4.5-9h or after wake-up stroke



mRS score for patients with automated perfusion mismatch (A), and patients without automated perfusion mismatch (B).

## WAKE-UP, EXTEND, THAWS, and ECASS-4



In patients who have had a stroke with unknown time of onset with a DWI-FLAIR or perfusion mismatch, intravenous alteplase resulted in better functional outcome at 90 days than placebo or standard care despite an increased risk of symptomatic intracranial haemorrhage.

Although there were more deaths with alteplase than placebo, there were fewer cases of severe disability or death.

### Intravenous alteplase for stroke with unknown time of onset guided by advanced imaging: systematic review and meta-analysis of individual patient data

Gotz Thomalla, Florent Boutitie, Henry Ma, Masatoshi Koga, Peter Ringleb, Lee H Schwamm, Ona Wu, Martin Bendszus, Christopher F Bladin, Bruce CV Campbell, Bastian Cheng, Leonid Chunilov, Martin Ebinger, Matthias Endres, Jochen B Fiebach, Mayumi Fukuda-Doi, Manabu Inoue, Timothy J Kleinig, Lawrence L Latour, Robin Lemmens, Christopher R Levi, Didier Leys, Kaori Miwa, Carlos A Molina, Keith W Muir, Norbert Nighoghossian, Mark W Parsons, Salvador Pedraza, Peter D Schellinger, Stefan Schwab, Claus Z Simonsen, Shlee S Song, Vincent Thijs, Danilo Toni, Chung Y Hsu, Nils Wahlgren, Haruko Yamamoto, Nawaf Yassi, Sohei Yoshimura, Steven Warach, Werner Hacke, Kazunori Toyoda, Geoffrey A Donnan, Stephen M Davis, Christian Gerloff, on behalf of the Evaluation of unknown Onset Stroke thrombolysis trials (EOS) investigators\*

Lancet 2020; 396: 1574–84

# Wake Up Stroke



Is mismatch RM PW-DWI o CT Perfusion available?

Yes

Criteria EXTEND

A PWI-DWI mismatch is used for penumbral estimation. Mismatch is defined as PWI:DWI ratio of  $\geq 1.2$  and an absolute difference in volume greater than 10 ml, Ischemic core lesion of less than or equal to 70 mL.

NO

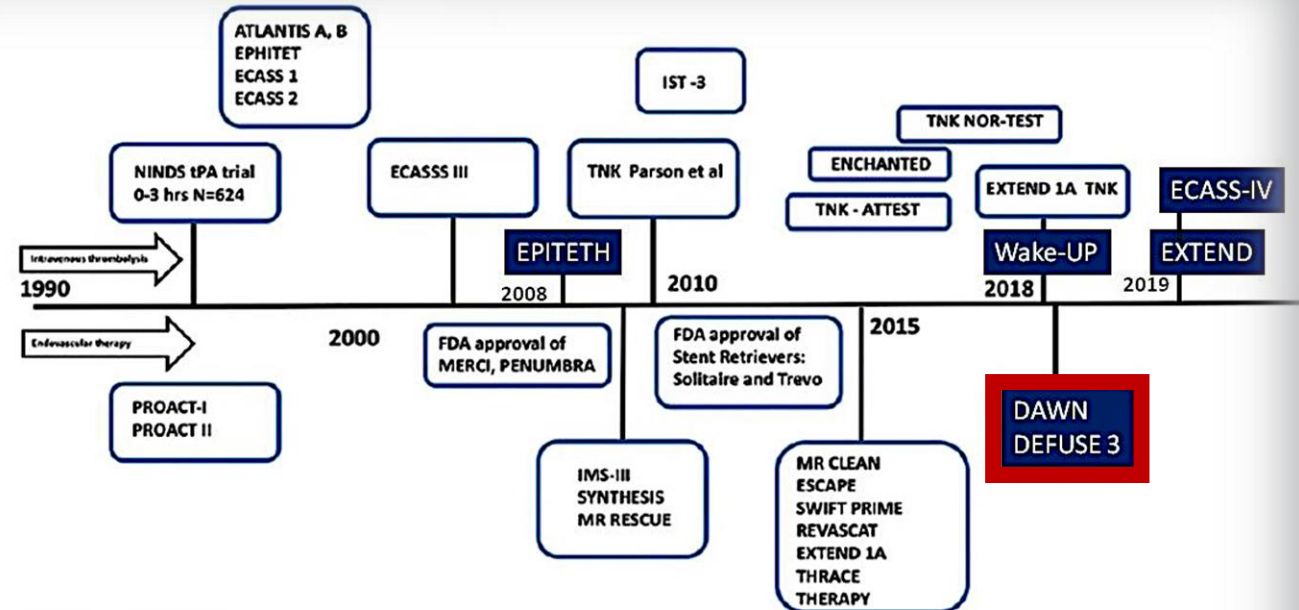
Criteria WAKE-UP

DWI-FLAIR mismatch (abnormal signal on DWI and no marked signal change on FLAIR in the region of the acute stroke).





defuse · 3







## Inclusion Criteria

Int J Stroke. 2017 Aug;12(6):641-652.

1. Clinical signs and symptoms consistent with the diagnosis of an acute ischemic stroke, and subject belongs to one of the following subgroups:
  - a. Subject has **failed IV t-PA therapy** (defined as a confirmed persistent occlusion 60 min after administration)
  - b. Subject is **contraindicated for IV t-PA** administration
2. Age  $\geq 18$
3. Baseline **NIHSS  $\geq 10$**
4. Subject can be randomized between with **6 to 24 h** after time last known well
5. No significant pre-stroke disability (pre-stroke **mRS must be 0 or 1**)
6. Anticipated life expectancy of at least 6 months
7. Subject willing/able to return for protocol required follow-up visits
8. Subject or subject's legally authorized representative (LAR) has signed the study informed consent form

1.  $< 1/3$  MCA territory involved, as evidenced by CT or MRI
2. Occlusion of the intracranial ICA and/or MCA-M1 as evidenced by MRA or CTA
3. **Clinical imaging mismatch (CIM)** defined as one of the following on MR-DWI or CTP-rCBF maps:
  - a.  $\geq 80$  y/o, NIHSS  $\geq 10$  + core  $< 21$  mL
  - b.  $< 80$  y/o, NIHSS  $\geq 10$  + core  $< 31$  mL
  - c.  $< 80$  y/o, NIHSS  $\geq 20$  + core  $< 51$  mL

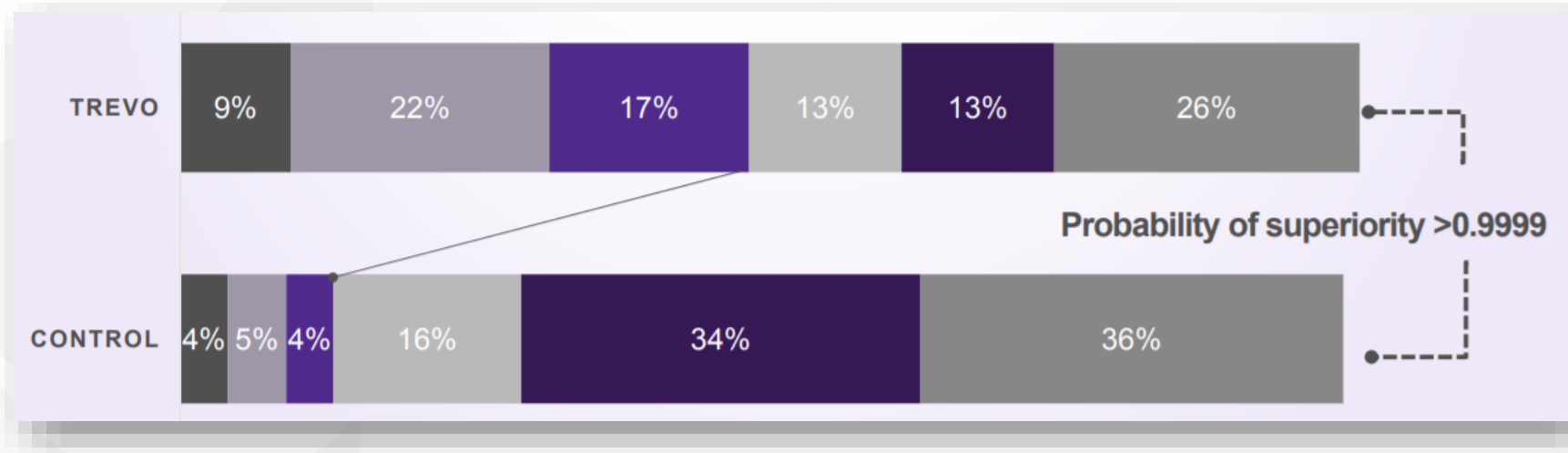
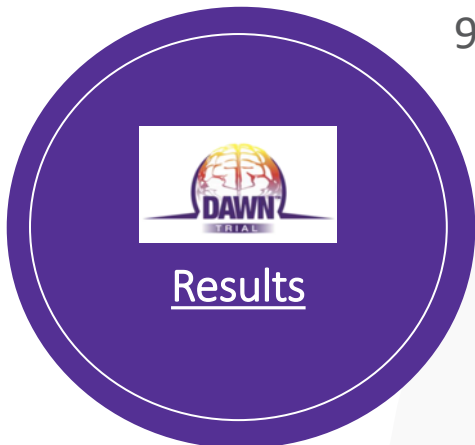
**Clinical imaging mismatch**

■ mRS 0/uW mRS 10  
■ mRS 3/ uW mRS 6.5

■ mRS 1/uW mRS 9.1  
■ mRS 4/ uW mRS 3.3

■ mRS 2/ uW mRS 7.6  
■ mRS 5-6/ uW mRS 0

90 Day mRS



73% relative risk reduction of dependency in ADL's NNT for any lower disability 2.0

The treatment effect size in DAWN is the highest out of any stroke trials to date and suggests that the presence of Clinical-Core Mismatch is a critical predictor of treatment effect independent of time to presentation

	Trevo	MM	P-value
6-12h	55.1%	20.0%	<0.001
12-24h	43.1%	7.4%	<0.001

90 day Rankin 0-2

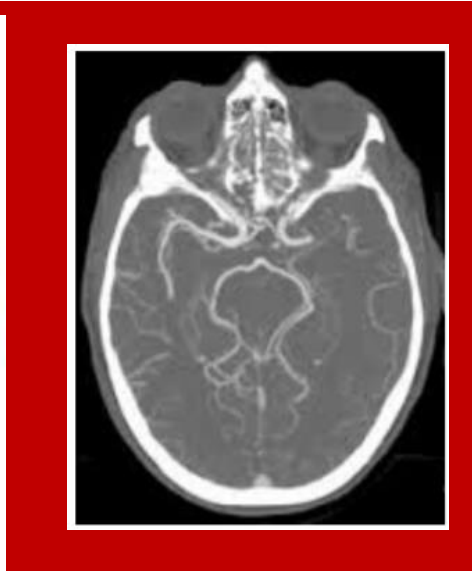
1. Signs and symptoms consistent with the diagnosis of an acute anterior circulation ischemic stroke
2. Age 18–90 years
3. Baseline NIHSS score  $\geq 6$
4. **Endovascular treatment** can be initiated (femoral puncture) between 6 and 16 h of stroke onset. Stroke onset is defined as the time the patient was last known to be at their neurologic baseline (wake-up strokes are eligible if they meet the above time limits)
5. **Modified Rankin Scale  $\leq 2$**  prior to qualifying stroke
6. Patient/Legally authorized representative has signed the informed consent form



Inclusion  
Criteria

## MRA / CTA reveals

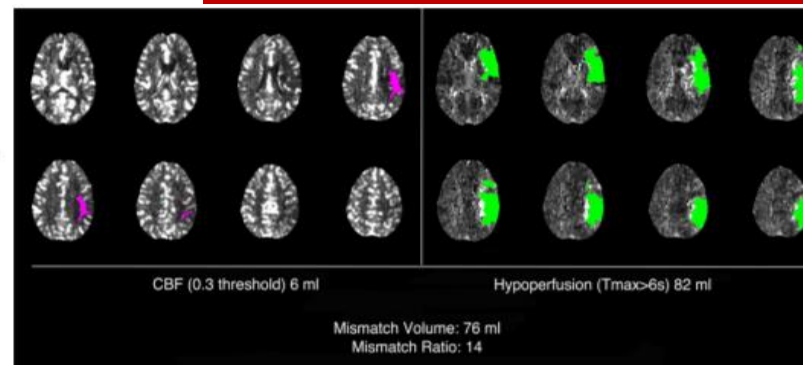
- M1 segment MCA occlusion, or
- ICA occlusion (cervical or intracranial; with or without tandem MCA lesions)



AND

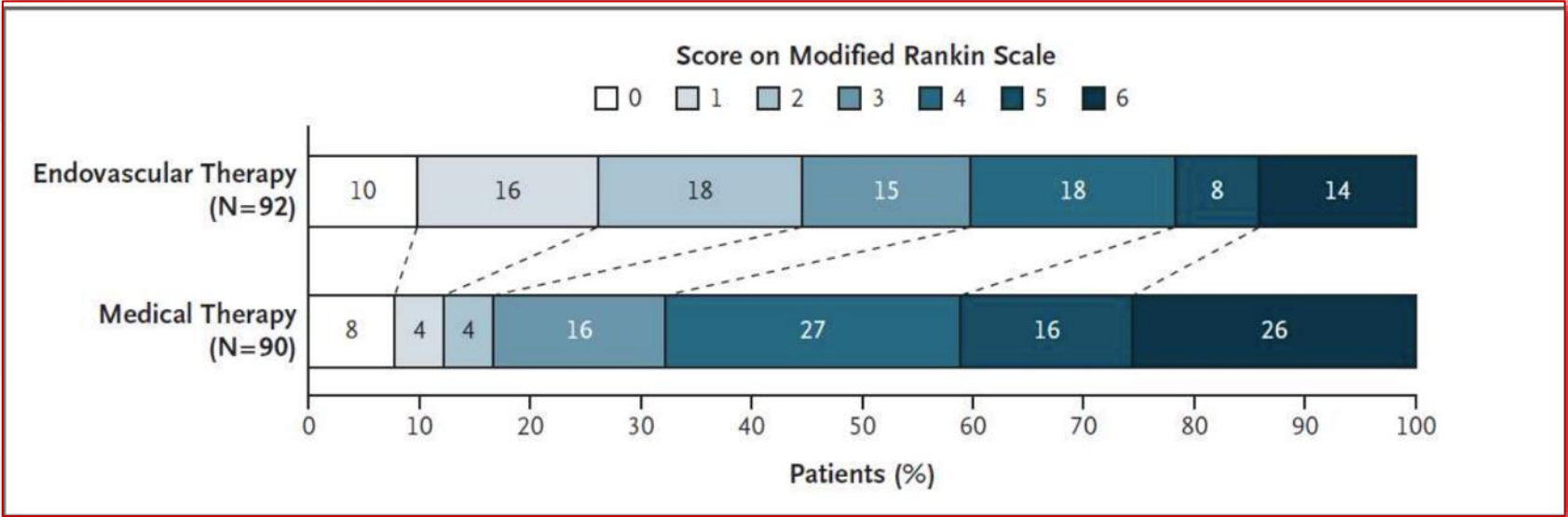
## Target Mismatch Profile on CT perfusion or MRI (RAPID)

- Ischemic core volume < 70 mL  
and
- Mismatch ratio > 1.8  
and
- Mismatch volume  $\geq$  15 mL



Endovascular thrombectomy for ischemic stroke 6 to 16 hours after a patient was last known to be well plus standard medical therapy resulted in

better functional outcomes than standard medical therapy alone among patients with proximal middle-cerebral-artery or internal-carotid-artery occlusion and a region of tissue that was ischemic but not yet infarcted.



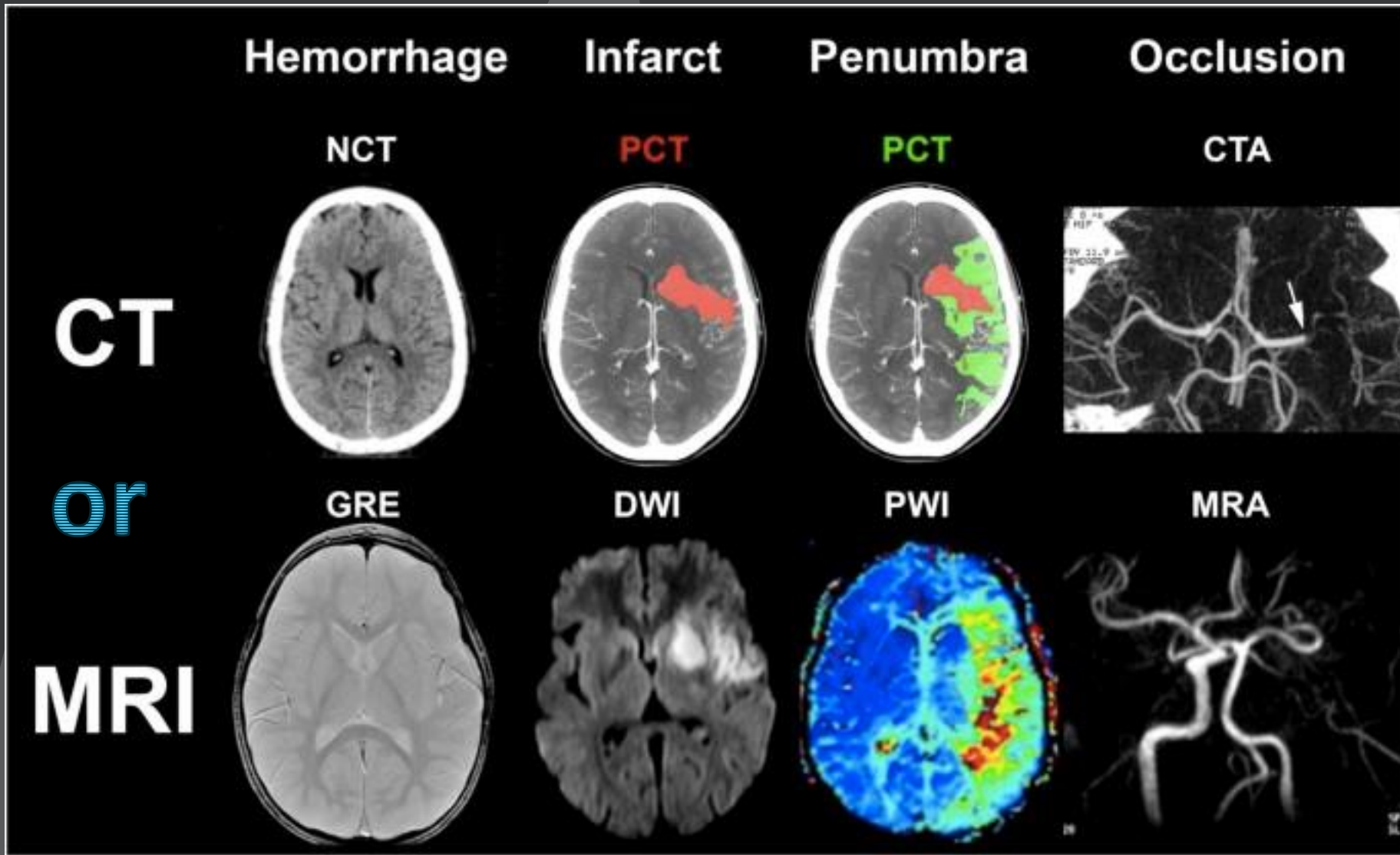


## Conclusioni

La RMN, sulla base delle evidenze attuali, ricopre un ruolo determinante nella selezione dei pazienti da sottoporre a terapie riperfusive secondo le seguenti valutazioni:

- mismatch DWI-Flair per la fibrinolisi endovena nei pazienti con Ictus al Risveglio (studio Wake-UP)
- mismatch PW/DWI nei pazienti da sottoporre a fibrinolisi endovena oltre le 4.5 ore e sino alle 9 ore (Studio EXTEND)
- mismatch Gravità clinica/DWI e PW/DWI nel selezionare pazienti da sottoporre a trombectomia meccanica oltre le 6 ore (rispettivamente studio DAWN e Defuse 3)
- l'analisi automatica dell'estensione del core e del mismatch sembra offrire un vantaggio





?

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### RACCOMANDAZIONE PER LA RICERCA 9.32

In pazienti con ictus ischemico acuto da occlusione di grossa arteria di circolo anteriore entro 6 ore dall'esordio dei sintomi e ASPECTS <6 e core ischemico >70 ml, è raccomandata l'inclusione in RCT.

### RACCOMANDAZIONE 9.33 Grado GPP

In pazienti con ictus ischemico acuto da occlusione di grossa arteria di circolo anteriore entro 6 ore dall'esordio dei sintomi e ASPECTS 3-5 o core ischemico >70 ml, qualora non sia possibile l'arruolamento in trial randomizzati, il Gruppo di lavoro suggerisce la possibilità di effettuare il trattamento endovascolare, ma la decisione dovrebbe prendere in considerazione l'età del paziente, lo stato funzionale pre-esistente e il tempo stimato per ottenere la riperfusione.

Extension of the time window for therapy is the most logical way to increase the number of patients eligible to receive rt-PA.

*MRI allows the identification of ischemic Penumbra by depicting the mismatch between the hypoperfused perfusion weighted image (PWI) and the infarct core seen on the diffusion weighted image (DWI) and may be present in up to 50% of patients presenting within 24 h from stroke onset.*