



# Tenecteplase: Ready for prime time?

## Implications for non-TNK clinical trials

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Ascension Healthcare  
Austin, Texas



# Disclosures

## Off label use of drugs

Intravenous alteplase for ischemic stroke beyond 3 hours

Intravenous tenecteplase for ischemic stroke

## Financial

Modest: Genentech

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## TISSUE PLASMINOGEN ACTIVATOR FOR ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE

	<b>alteplase</b>	<b>placebo</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Disability-free recovery (mRS ≤ 1)</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>&lt; .001</b>
<b>Symptomatic intracerebral hemorrhage</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>&lt; .001</b>

**Can we  
do  
better?**

# Alteplase administration: bolus then infusion

Phase	Alteplase
Initial (free plasma)	3-5 min
Plasma Clearance	380-570 mL/min
Terminal (tissue bound)	72-144 min



## Stroke Dosing

0.9 mg/kg Max 90mg

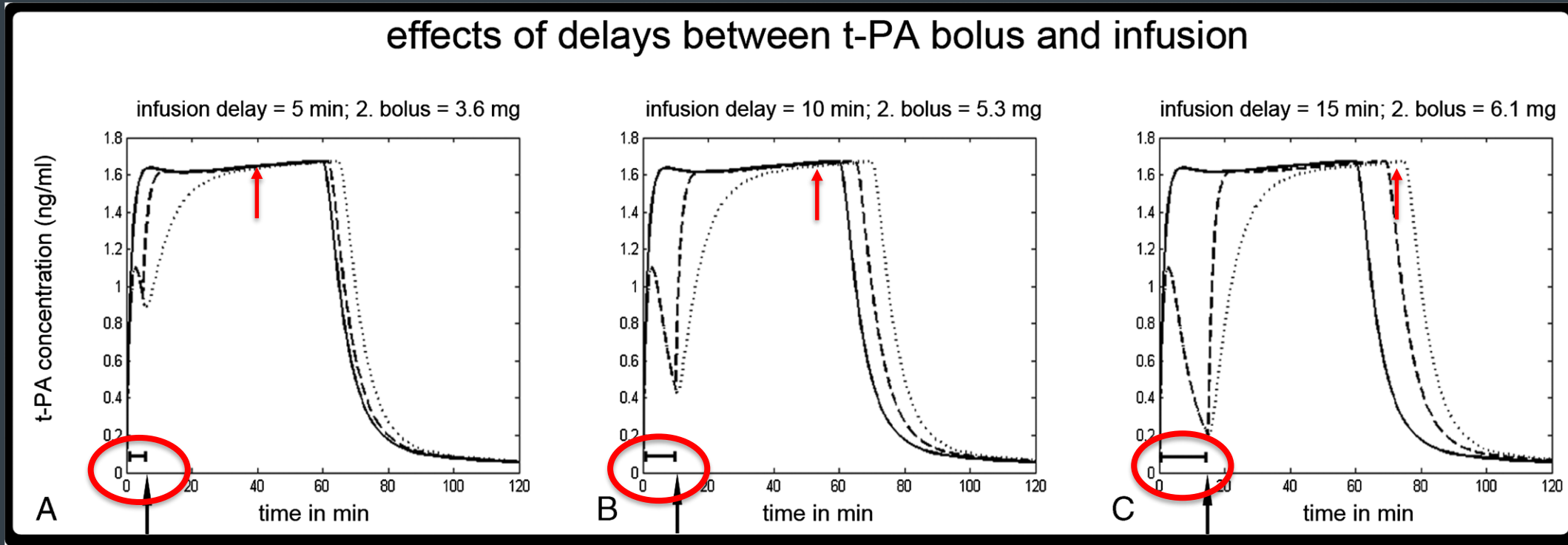
10% as 60 sec bolus

remainder as infusion over 60 minutes



# Alteplase administration: mind the gap!

## effects of delays between t-PA bolus and infusion



- pharmacokinetic of standard t-PA administration without any delay or interruption
  - ..... effects of a delayed infusion start or interruption of infusion on pharmacokinetic of t-PA
  - - - effects of second bolus to compensate for the delayed infusion start or interruption of infusion of t-PA
- ↑ infusion start
- time without t-PA infusion



# Alteplase administration: mind the gap!

Bolus-Infusion Delays of Alteplase during Thrombolysis in Acute Ischaemic Stroke and Functional Outcome at 3 Months.

*Acheampong et al. 2014, Stroke Res Treat*

N=276 alteplase treated stroke

Mean bolus to infusion delay of 9 minutes

80%  $\geq$  5 minutes

22%  $\geq$  12 minutes

Trend to worse mRS outcome with longer bolus to infusion delays



# Search for a better thrombolytic

Single bolus injection – workflow advantages

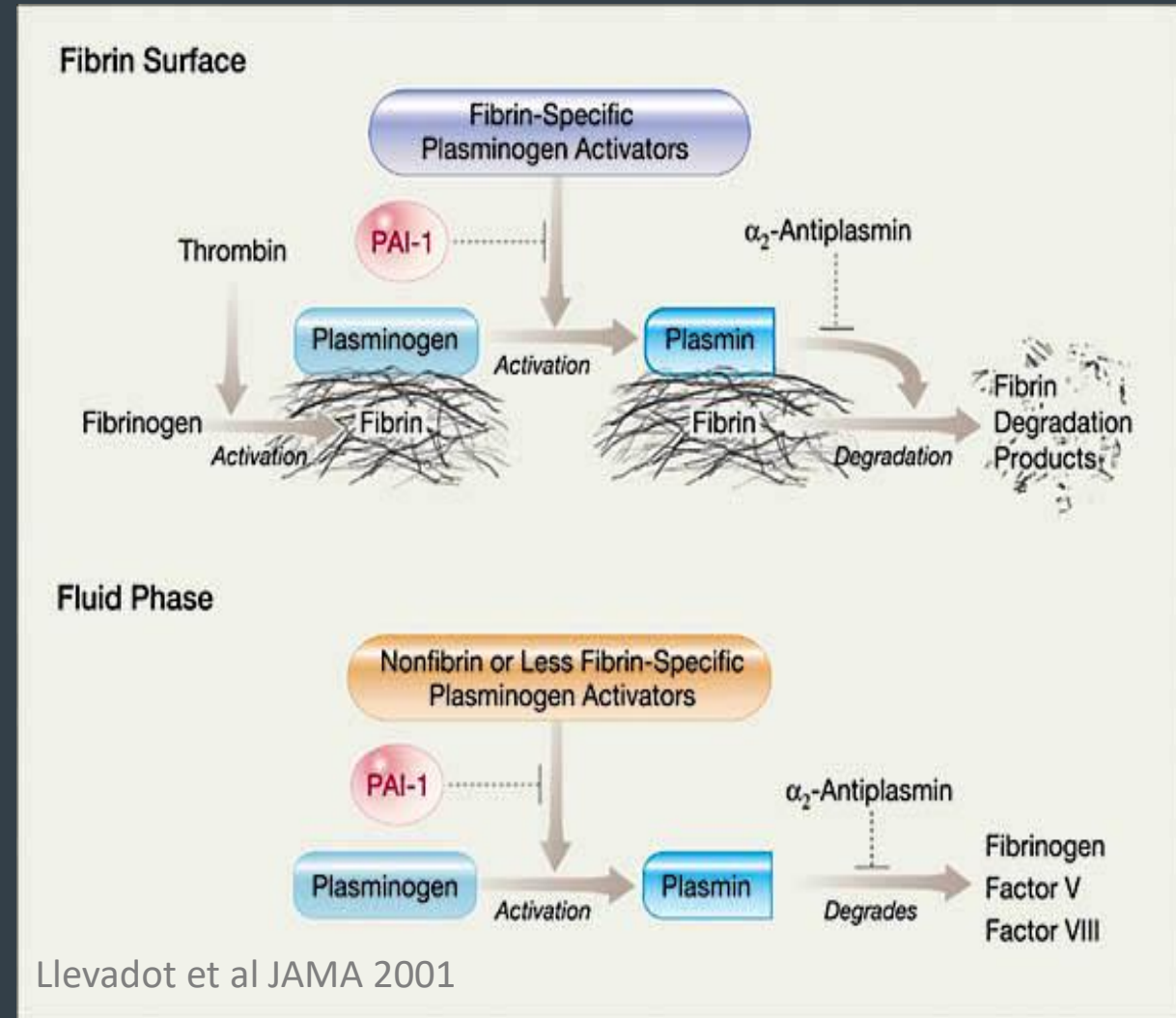
Higher rates of recanalization – better outcomes

Reduced bleeding complication – better safety

# Search for a better thrombolytic

Greater  
fibrin specificity  
resistance to PAI-1 inhibition  
conservation of fibrinogen  
speed of clot lysis

Reduced  
plasma clearance



Llevadot et al JAMA 2001





# Tenecteplase

**TNK-tpa**

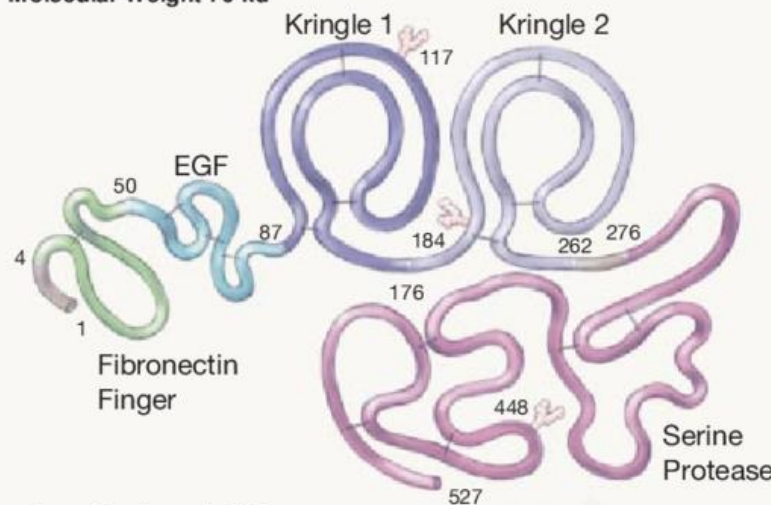
T103N

N117Q

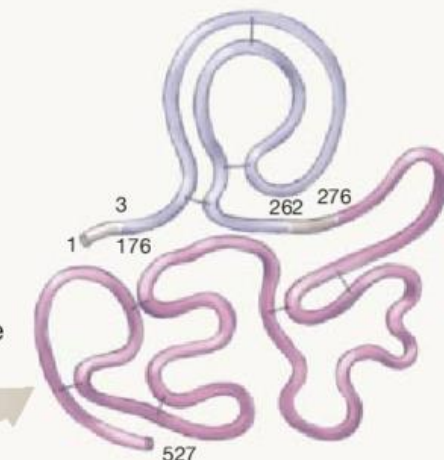
KHRR (296-299)AAAA

Phase	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
Initial (free plasma)	3-5 min	20-24 min
Plasma Clearance	380-570 mL/min	99-119 mL/min
Terminal (tissue bound)	72-144 min	90-130 min

**Alteplase (tPA)**  
Molecular Weight 70 kd



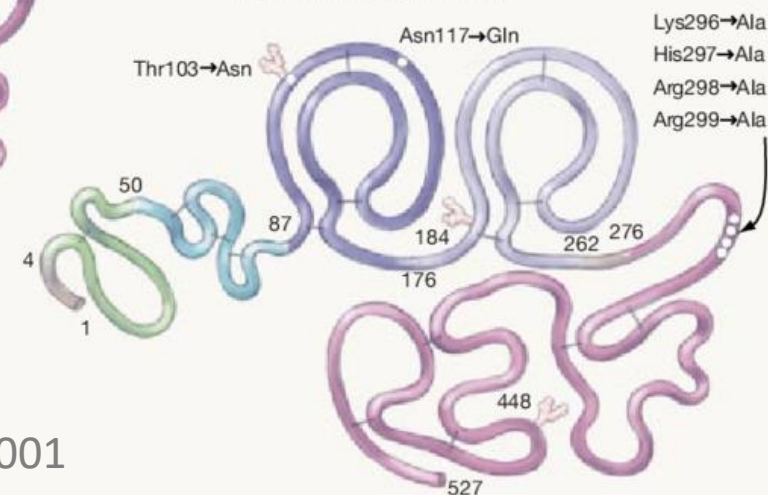
**Retepase (rPA)**  
Molecular Weight 39 kd



**Lanoteplase (nPA)**  
Molecular Weight 53.6 kd



**Tenecteplase (TNK-tPA)**  
Molecular Weight ~75 kd



Llevadot et al JAMA 2001



# Tenecteplase

TNK-tpa

T103N

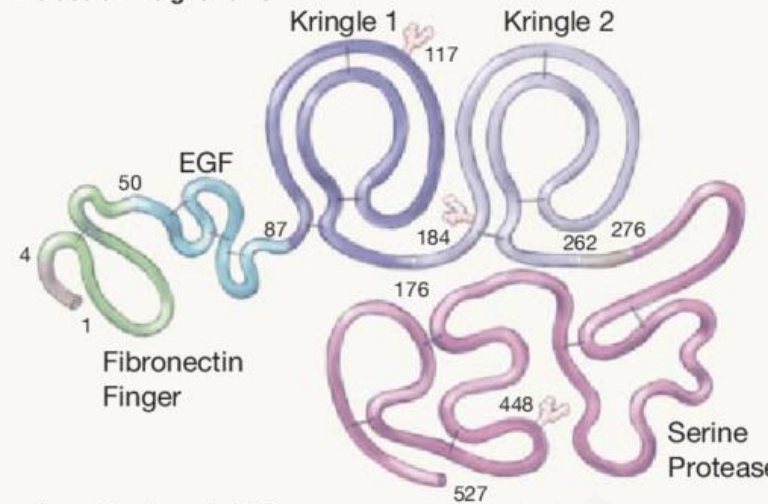
N117Q

KHRR (296-299)AAAA

- 14-fold greater fibrin specificity
- 10-fold greater conservation of fibrinogen
- 80-fold increased resistance to PAI-1
- more rapid thrombolysis

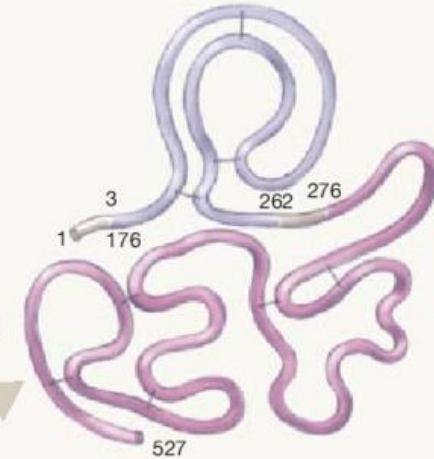
Alteplase (tPA)

Molecular Weight 70 kd



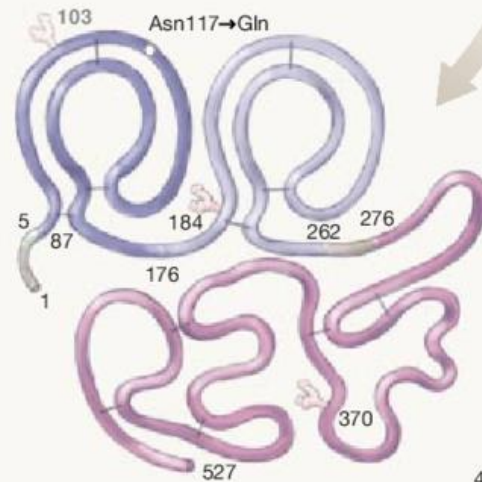
Retepase (rPA)

Molecular Weight 39 kd



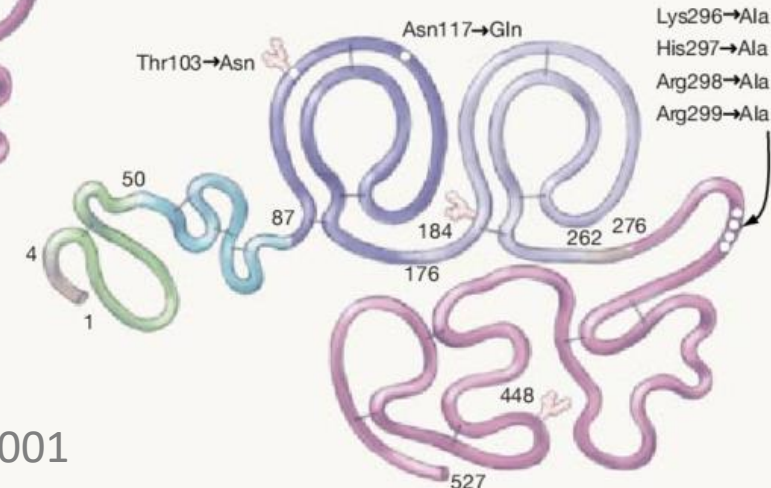
Lanoteplase (nPA)

Molecular Weight 53.6 kd

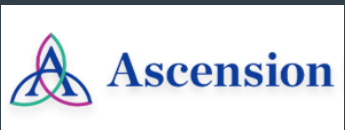


Tenecteplase (TNK-tPA)

Molecular Weight ~75 kd



Llevadot et al JAMA 2001





## ASSENT-2 (1999)

- Alteplase vs Tenecteplase in STEMI; ~8500 per group
- Equivalent 30-day mortality
- 0.9% ICH both groups
- Fewer non-CNS bleeding events (26% to 29%)
- No difference in recanalization or reinfarction
- FDA approved in 2000 at 0.5 mg/kg to 50 mg maximum



# Alteplase vs Tenecteplase randomized trials 2010-2019



## Phase IIB/III Trial of Tenecteplase in Acute Ischemic Stroke Results of a Prematurely Terminated Randomized Clinical Trial

E. Clarke Haley, Jr, MD; John L.P. Thompson, PhD; James C. Grotta, MD; Patrick D. Lyden, MD; Thomas G. Hemmen, MD; Devin L. Brown, MD, MS; Christopher Fanale, MD; Richard Libman, MD; Thomas G. Kwiatkowski, MD; Rafael H. Llinas, MD; Steven R. Levine, MD; Karen C. Johnston, MD, MSc; Richard Buchsbaum; Gilberto Levy, MD, MS; Bruce Levin, PhD; for the Tenecteplase in Stroke Investigators

**Background and Purpose**—Intravenous alteplase (rtPA) remains the only approved treatment for acute ischemic stroke, but its use remains limited. In a previous pilot dose-escalation study, intravenous tenecteplase showed promise as a potentially safer alternative. Therefore, a Phase IIB clinical trial was begun to (1) choose a best dose of tenecteplase to carry forward; and (2) to provide evidence for either promise or futility of further testing of tenecteplase versus rtPA. If promise was established, then the trial would continue as a Phase III efficacy trial comparing the selected tenecteplase dose to standard rtPA.

**Methods**—The trial began as a small, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, controlled clinical trial comparing 0.1, 0.25, and 0.4 mg/kg tenecteplase with standard 0.9 mg/kg rtPA in patients with acute stroke within 3 hours of onset. An adaptive sequential design used an early (24-hour) assessment of major neurological improvement balanced against occurrence of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage to choose a “best” dose of tenecteplase to carry forward. Once a “best” dose was established, the trial was to continue until at least 100 pairs of the selected tenecteplase dose versus standard rtPA could be compared by 3-month outcome using the modified Rankin Scale in an interim analysis. Decision rules were devised to yield a clear recommendation to either stop for futility or to continue into Phase III.

**Phase**

**Dose finding study**

**Re**

**Randomized, double-blind**

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**< 3hr**

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**0.1, 0.25, 0.4 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

*Background*

**N (TNK) = 81**

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**Composite Outcome at 24 hr**

*Methods*—7

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**0.4mg/kg dose discarded as inferior**

**Stroke**

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standard rtPA could be compared by 3-month outcome using the modified Rankin Scale in an interim analysis. Decision rules were devised to yield a clear recommendation to either stop for futility or to continue into Phase III.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# A Randomized Trial of Tenecteplase versus Alteplase for Acute Ischemic Stroke

Mark Parsons, M.D., Neil Spratt, M.D., Andrew Bivard, B.Sc.,  
Bruce Campbell, M.D., Kong Chung, M.D., Ferdinand Miteff, M.D.,  
Bill O'Brien, M.D., Christopher Bladin, M.D., Patrick McElduff, Ph.D.,  
Chris Allen, M.D., Grant Bateman, M.D., Geoffrey Donnan, M.D.,  
Stephen Davis, M.D., and Christopher Levi, M.D.

**Phase 2**

**Randomized**

**< 6hr; LVO with penumbra by CTA/CTP**

**0.1, 0.25 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**N (TNK) = 50**

**Reperfusion and clinical improvement at 24 hr**

**Combined TNK superior to ALT**





# Alteplase versus tenecteplase for thrombolysis after ischaemic stroke (ATTEST): a phase 2, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint study

*Xuya Huang, Bharath Kumar Cheripelli, Suzanne M Lloyd, Dheeraj Kalladka, Fiona Catherine Moreton, Aslam Siddiqui, Ian Ford, Keith W Muir*

## Summary

**Background** In most countries, alteplase given within 4·5 h of onset is the only approved medical treatment for acute ischaemic stroke. The newer thrombolytic drug tenecteplase has been investigated in one randomised trial up to 3 h after stroke and in another trial up to 6 h after stroke in patients selected by advanced neuroimaging. In the Alteplase-Tenecteplase Trial Evaluation for Stroke Thrombolysis (ATTEST), we aimed to assess the efficacy and safety of tenecteplase versus alteplase within 4·5 h of stroke onset in a population not selected on the basis of advanced neuroimaging, and to use imaging biomarkers to inform the design of a definitive phase 3 clinical trial.

*Lancet Neurol* 2015; 14: 368–76

Published Online

February 26, 2015

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(15)70017-7)

S1474-4422(15)70017-7

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Institute of Neuroscience and



**Phase 2**

**Randomized, PROBE**

**< 4.5 hr; with penumbra by CTA/CTP**

**0.25mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**N (TNK) = 52**

**Penumbral Salvage at 24-48 hr**

**No differences**

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*Ian Ford, Keith W Muir*

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aging. In the Alteplase-  
efficacy and safety of  
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See Comment page 343

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# Tenecteplase versus alteplase for management of acute ischaemic stroke (NOR-TEST): a phase 3, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint trial



Nicola Logallo, Vojtech Novotny, Jörg Assmus, Christopher E Kvistad, Lars Alteheld, Ole Morten Rønning, Bente Thommessen, Karl-Friedrich Amthor, Hege Ihle-Hansen, Martin Kurz, Håkon Tobro, Kamaljit Kaur, Magdalena Stankiewicz, Maria Carlsson, Åse Morsund, Titto Idicula, Anne Hege Aamodt, Christian Lund, Halvor Næss, Ulrike Waje-Andreassen, Lars Thomassen

## Summary

**Background** Tenecteplase is a newer thrombolytic agent with some pharmacological advantages over alteplase. Previous phase 2 trials of tenecteplase in acute ischaemic stroke have shown promising results. We aimed to investigate the safety and efficacy of tenecteplase versus alteplase in patients with acute stroke who were eligible for intravenous thrombolysis.

**Methods** This phase 3, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint, superiority trial was done in 13 stroke units in Norway. We enrolled adults with suspected acute ischaemic stroke who were eligible for thrombolysis and admitted within 4·5 h of symptom onset or within 4·5 h of awakening with symptoms, or who were eligible for bridging therapy before thrombectomy. Patients were randomly assigned (1:1) to receive intravenous tenecteplase 0·4 mg/kg (to a maximum of 40 mg) or alteplase 0·9 mg/kg (to a maximum of 90 mg), via a block randomisation schedule stratified by centre of inclusion. Patients were not informed of treatment allocation; treating physicians were aware of treatment allocation but those assessing the primary and secondary endpoints were not. The primary outcome was excellent functional outcome defined as modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score 0–1 at 3 months. The primary analysis was an unadjusted and non-stratified intention-to-treat analysis with last observation carried forward for imputation of missing data. This study is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, number NCT01949948.

**Findings** Between Sept 1, 2012, and Sept 30, 2016, 1107 patients met the inclusion criteria and seven patients were excluded because informed consent was withdrawn or eligibility for thrombolytic treatment was reconsidered. 1100 patients were randomly assigned to the tenecteplase (n=549) or alteplase (n=551) groups. The median age of participants was 77 years (IOR 64–79) and the median National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score at baseline

*Lancet Neurol* 2017; 16: 781–88

Published Online

August 2, 2017

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(17\)30253-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(17)30253-3)

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See [Comment](#) page 762

Department of Neurology, Centre for Neurovascular Diseases (N Logallo PhD, V Novotny MD, C E Kvistad PhD, Prof H Næss PhD, U Waje-Andreassen PhD, Prof L Thomassen PhD) and Centre for Clinical Research (J Assmus PhD), Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway; Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway (N Logallo, V Novotny, C E Kvistad, Prof M Kurz PhD, U Waje-Andreassen, Prof L Thomassen); Department of Neurology, Oslo University

# Tenecteplase versus alteplase for management of acute



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**Phase 3**

**Randomized, PROBE**

**< 4.5 hr (+ Wake-up), all eligible for thrombolytic**

**0.4 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**N (TNK) = 549**

**mRS at 3 months**

**No differences mRS or sICH**

1100 patients were randomly assigned to the tenecteplase (n=549) or alteplase (n=551) groups. The median age of participants was 77 years (IOR 64–79) and the median National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score at baseline

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# Tenecteplase versus alteplase for management of acute



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**Phase 3**

**Randomized, PROBE**

**< 4.5 hr (+ Wake-up), all eligible for thrombolytic**

**0.4 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**Median NIHSS 4**

**Severe (NIHSS  $\geq$  15) subgroup higher mortality in TNK group**

1100 patients were randomly assigned to the tenecteplase (n=549) or alteplase (n=551) groups. The median age of participants was 77 years (IOR 64–79) and the median National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score at baseline

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## Tenecteplase versus Alteplase before Thrombectomy for Ischemic Stroke

B.C.V. Campbell, P.J. Mitchell, L. Churilov, N. Yassi, T.J. Kleinig, R.J. Dowling, B. Yan, S.J. Bush, H.M. Dewey, V. Thijs, R. Scroop, M. Simpson, M. Brooks, H. Asadi, T.Y. Wu, D.G. Shah, T. Wijeratne, T. Ang, F. Miteff, C.R. Levi, E. Rodrigues, H. Zhao, P. Salvaris, C. Garcia-Esperon, P. Bailey, H. Rice, L. de Villiers, H. Brown, K. Redmond, D. Leggett, J.N. Fink, W. Collecutt, A.A. Wong, C. Muller, A. Coulthard, K. Mitchell, J. Clouston, K. Mahady, D. Field, H. Ma, T.G. Phan, W. Chong, R.V. Chandra, L.-A. Slater, M. Krause, T.J. Harrington, K.C. Faulder, B.S. Steinfort, C.F. Bladin, G. Sharma, P.M. Desmond, M.W. Parsons, G.A. Donnan, and S.M. Davis,  
for the EXTEND-IA TNK Investigators\*

**Randomized, PROBE**

**< 4.5 hr; LVO by CTA and thrombectomy candidate**

**0.25mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**N (TNK) = 101**

**?Substantial reperfusion on angiogram prior to EVT**

**Twice the rate of early recanalization**

**Improved mRS at 3 months**



**Table 2. Outcomes.**

Outcome	Tenecteplase Group (N = 101)	Alteplase Group (N = 101)	Effect Size (95% CI)	P Value
<b>Primary efficacy outcome</b>				
Substantial reperfusion at initial angiographic assessment — no. (%) <sup>*</sup>	22 (22)	10 (10)		
Difference — percentage points			12 (2–21)	0.002
Adjusted incidence ratio			2.2 (1.1–4.4)	0.03
Adjusted odds ratio			2.6 (1.1–5.9)	0.02
<b>Secondary outcomes</b>				
Score on the modified Rankin scale at 90 days <sup>†</sup>				







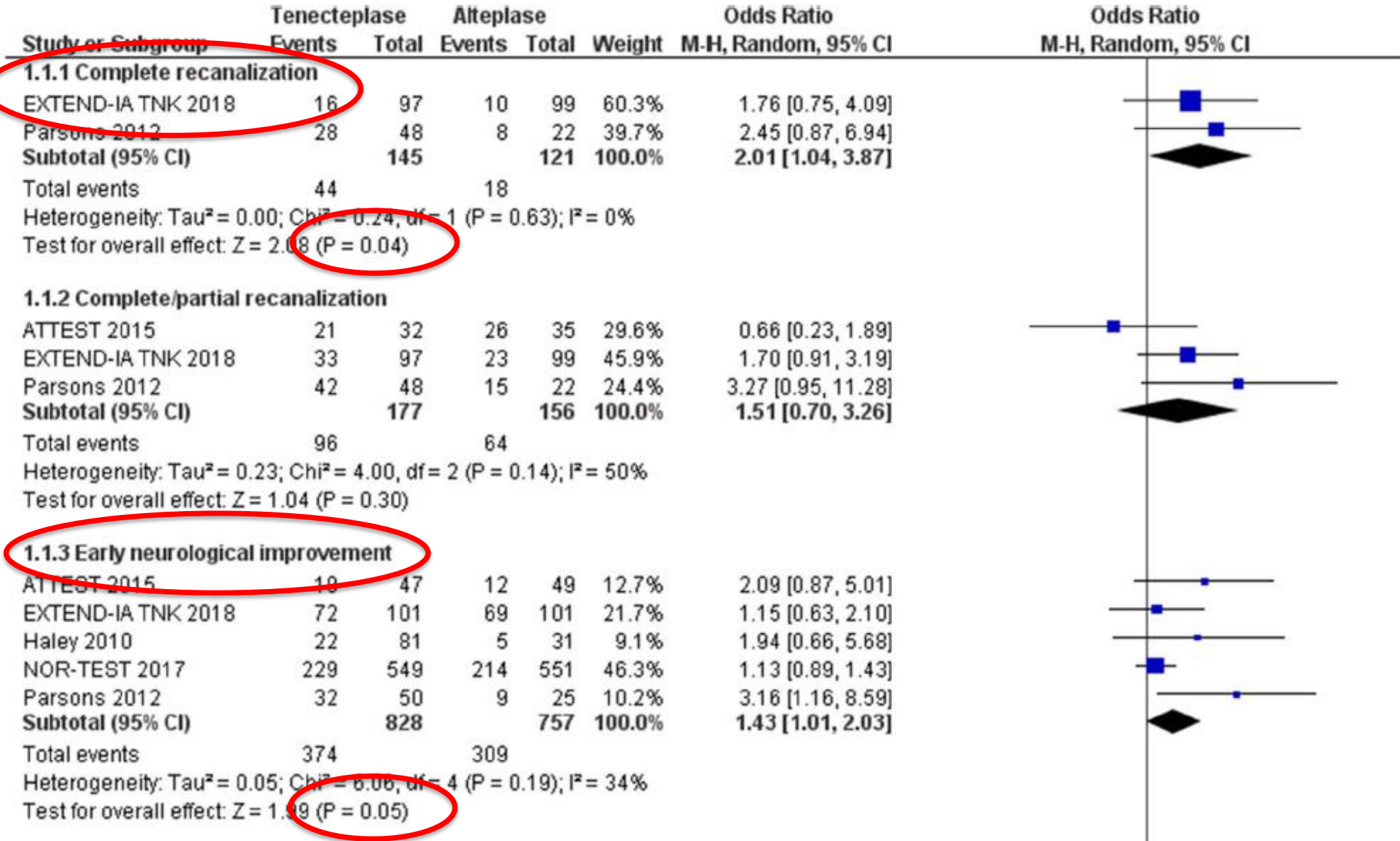
# Tenecteplase as Stroke Thrombolytic

## *meta-analyses*

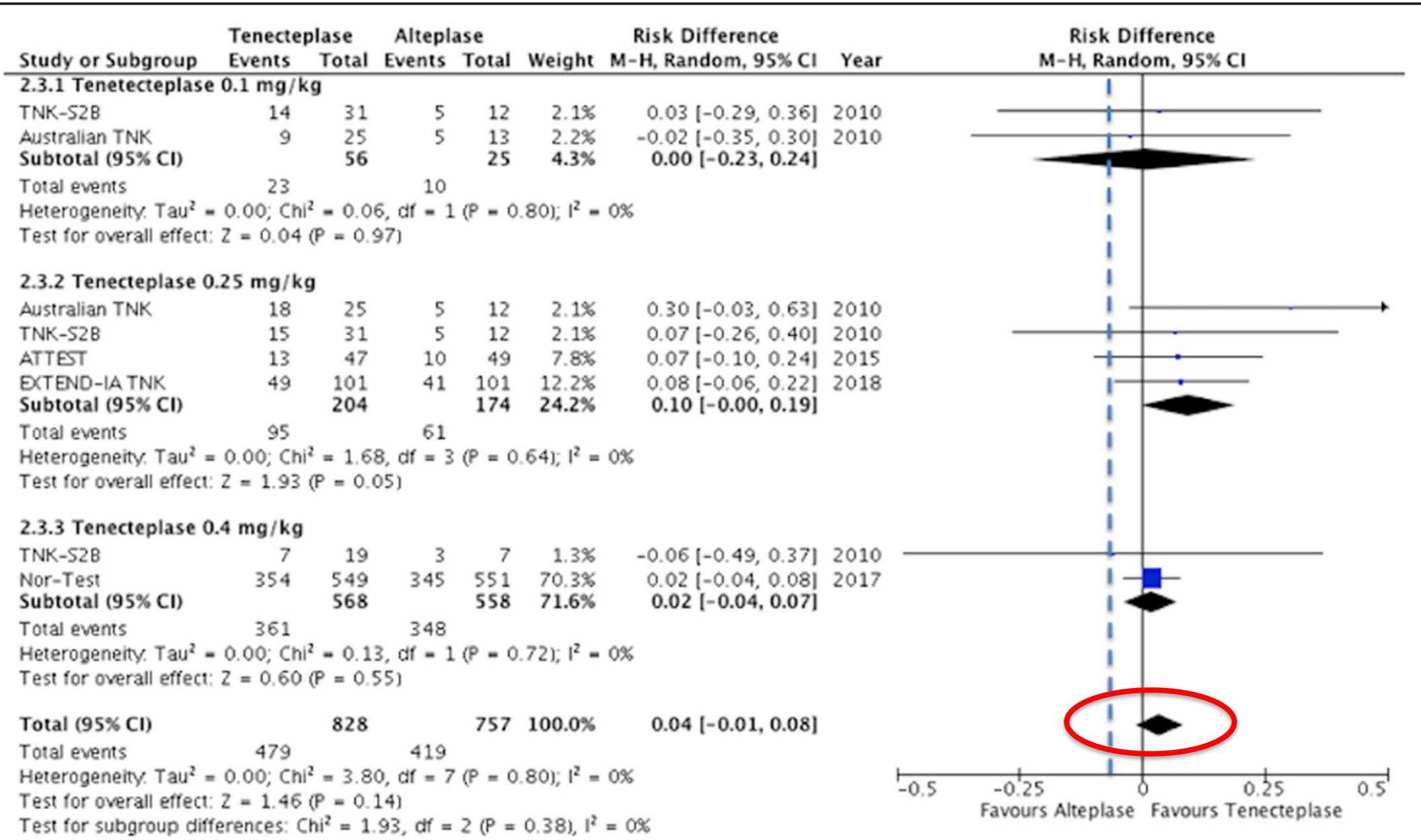
Non-inferiority and possible superiority of tenecteplase v alteplase in the treatment of acute ischemic stroke

Kheiri et al., *Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis* (2018)

Burgos and Saver, *Stroke* (2019)



# Non-inferior 3 month mRS 0-1





# Tenecteplase practical advantages over alteplase

Shorter time to prepare

Shorter time to administer (5-10 seconds versus 1 hour)

Does not require that a second, dedicated IV line be inserted and maintained

Does not require an IV infusion pump

Shorter time to initiate interfacility transfer after IV lytic administration\*

Lower cost per dose

# Tenecteplase As Stroke Thrombolytic

## Transitioning to Local Standard of Care at Ascension Seton

Ascension Texas – Ascension Seton Stroke Service. 10 hospitals (2 CSC, 2 PSC)

Unchanged lytic eligibility criteria and post treatment monitoring

*early drug preparation not permitted for tenecteplase*

Nursing and physician education

Electronic medical record revision of ordersets and monitoring tools

Network ‘Go-Live’ September 17, 2019

Quarterly oversight review of cumulative outcome and safety data



# Prospective Observational Cohort Study of Tenecteplase Versus Alteplase in Routine Clinical Practice

Purpose To compare workflow metrics clinical outcomes of IV tenecteplase as standard of care lytic with that of alteplase

Data Source Local Stroke Registry (REDCap). 2 years of alteplase prior to switch to tenecteplase compared to first 15 months of tenecteplase

## Hypotheses

Reduced door-to-needle and door-in-door-out times (higher rate of hitting target times)

Noninferior favorable outcome (discharge to home with independent ambulation)

Noninferior unfavorable outcome (sICH, in-hospital mortality or discharge to hospice)



# Baseline Characteristics

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
N	354	234
Age (median, IQR)	67 (55-79)	68 (57-77)
NIHSS (median, IQR)	8 (4-15)	8 (4-13)
% men	52%	62%
% EVT after lytic	22%	24%



# Door to Needle time

no exclusions

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
N	354	234
Minutes (median, IQR)	57 (43-75)	51 (38-80)
% ≤ 45 min	29%	41%

P=0.140

P=0.006

aOR 1.76 (1.24, 2.52), P=.002





# Door to Needle time

GWTG defined

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
N	203	135
Minutes (median, IQR)	48 (39-59)	42 (35-53)
% ≤ 45 min	41%	56%

P=0.012

P=0.011



# Interfacility Transfer Time After Lytic

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase	
N	65	43	
Minutes (median)	135	113	P=0.054
<b>% ≤ 90 Min</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>P=0.010</b>

OR = 3.69 (1.47, 9.7), P=.006



## Interfacility Transfer Time *no Lytic*

	Alteplase Era	Tenecteplase Era
N	278	205
Minutes (median)	158.5	165
<b>% ≤ 90 Min</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>18%</b>



# Interfacility Transfer Time After Lytic for EVT

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase	
N	13	16	
Minutes (median)	108	83	P=0.06
<b>% ≤ 90 Min</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>P=0.03</b>



# Interfacility Transfer Time *no Lytic* for EVT

	Alteplase Era	Tenecteplase Era
N	20	18
Minutes (median)	100.5	86.5
<b>% ≤ 90 Min</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>61%</b>

NS



# Favorable Outcome at Discharge

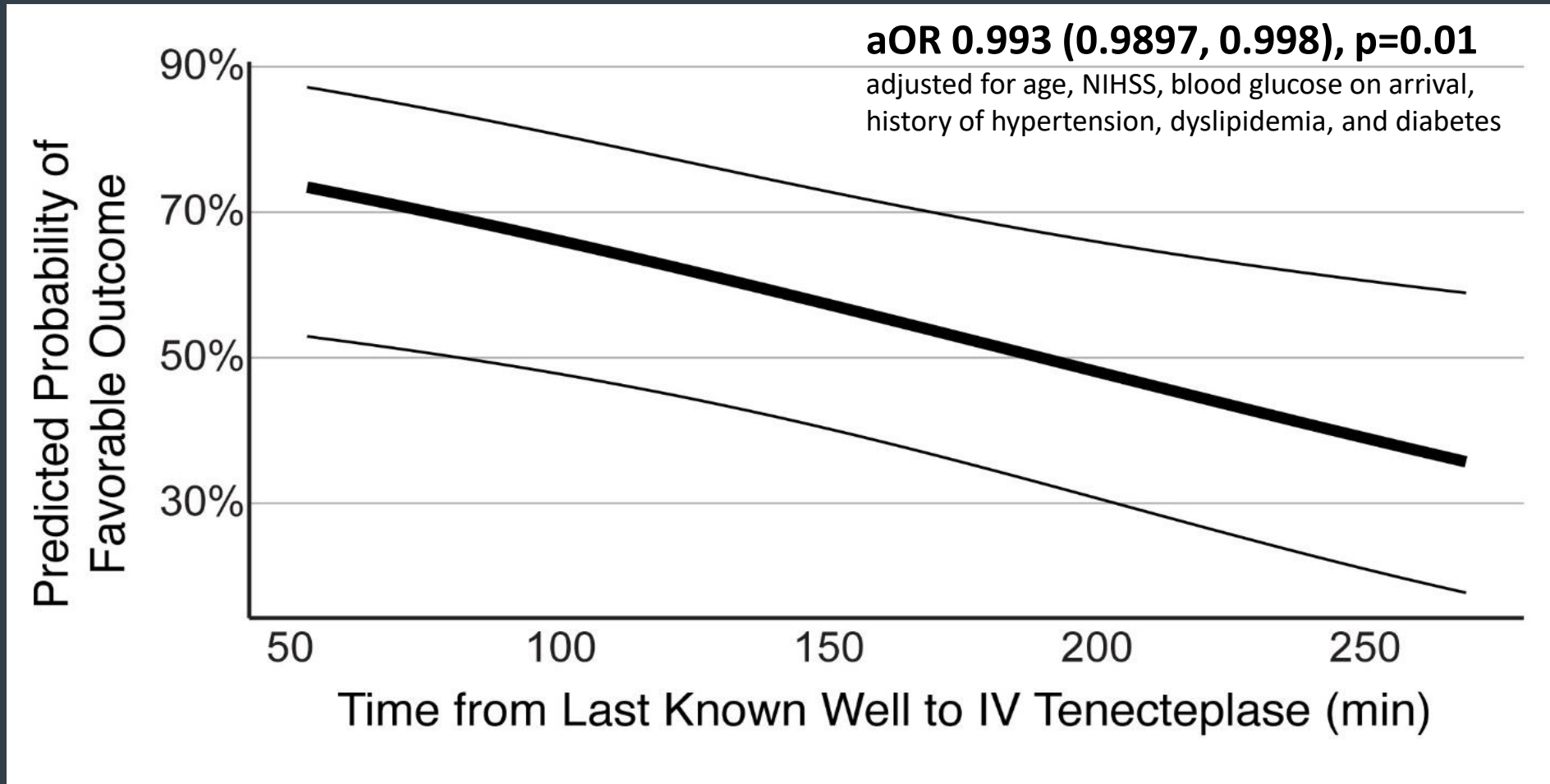
	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
N	354	234
Independent ambulation	43%	48%
Discharge to home	52%	52%
<b>Discharge to home AND Independent Ambulation</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>

aOR 1.26 (0.89, 1.80) within 6.5% non-inferiority margin



# Favorable Outcome at Discharge

declines with onset to treatment time





## Unfavorable Outcomes

	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
N	354	234
Any PH, IVH, or SAH by 36 hours	7.9%	7.7%
Symptomatic ICH	2.8 %	1.7%
In Hospital Mortality	6.2%	4.3%
Mortality OR Hospice	10.5%	6.8%
<b>Death, Hospice, OR sxICH</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

aOR 0.77 (0.42, 1.37) *not* within 1% non-inferiority margin





# Net Favorable Outcomes

NET FAVORABLE OUTCOME	Alteplase	Tenecteplase
Favorable minus Unfavorable Outcomes	27%	37%

P=0.02



# Hospital Costs per Encounter

**Table 1. Hospital Cost Breakdown: Tenecteplase vs Alteplase**

	ALT, N = 354	TNK, N = 234	p-value
Diagnostic	16 (16, 127)	32 (16, 127)	0.4
Imaging	723 (507, 1,031)	834 (533, 1,143)	0.044
Lab	224 (142, 487)	259 (164, 512)	0.035
Pharmacy	9,288 (8,657, 11,751)	6,997 (6,460, 7,972)	<0.001
Service Line	117 (105, 236)	120 (105, 242)	0.7
Supplies Devices	6 (0, 702)	12 (0, 2,758)	0.2
Ancillary Services	446 (235, 773)	514 (295, 882)	0.036
Room Board	3,110 (2,107, 5,009)	3,110 (2,107, 4,665)	0.5
Operative Services	0 (0, 983)	0 (0, 1,247)	0.3

Hospital Costs by Thrombolytic Type Used	Alteplase	Tenecteplase	Savings per case with TNK
Overall Hospital Cost per Encounter	\$15,841	\$13,382	\$2,459 <b>P&lt; 0.001</b>

**Approximate \$450,000 savings in hospital costs annually at Ascension Texas Hospitals**



# Ascension Texas Tenecteplase 15 months' experience

## Limitations

Single Stroke Network

Non-randomized

Not blinded

Sequential Samples

(temporal trends in quality improvement may contribute)



# Ascension Texas Tenecteplase 15 months' experience

Statistically significant:

- Reduction in time from ED arrival to treatment

- Increased % cases treated within 45 minutes of arrival

- Reduced transfer times (DIDO)

- Reduced time to EVT when transferred after lytic

- Non-inferior favorable clinical outcomes at discharge

Fewer unfavorable outcomes at discharge

Pharmacy cost savings over one year ~\$450,000

Our results are comparable to published NZ experience









# Experience in Clinical Practice

## BRIEF REPORT

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# Routine Use of Tenecteplase for Thrombolysis in Acute Ischemic Stroke

Cathy S. Zhong<sup>1</sup> , MBChB\*; James Beharry<sup>2</sup> , MBChB\*; Daniel Salazar, MD; Kelly Smith, BN; Stephen Withington, MBChB; Bruce C.V. Campbell<sup>3</sup> , MBBS, PhD; Duncan Wilson, MRCP, PhD; Campbell Le Heron, MBChB, PhD; Deborah Mason, MBChB; Roderick Duncan, MD, PhD; Jon Reimers, MBBS; Frances Mein-Smith, MBChB; William K. Diprose<sup>4</sup> , MBChB; P. Alan Barber, MBChB, PhD; Annemarei Ranta<sup>5</sup> , MD, PhD; John N. Fink, MBChB; Teddy Y. Wu<sup>6</sup> , MBChB, PhD

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:** In ischemic stroke, intravenous tenecteplase is noninferior to alteplase in selected patients and has some practical advantages. Several stroke centers in New Zealand changed to routine off-label intravenous tenecteplase due to improved early recanalization in large vessel occlusion, inconsistent access to thrombectomy within stroke networks, and for consistency in treatment protocols between patients with and without large vessel occlusion. We report the feasibility and safety outcomes in tenecteplase-treated patients.

## BRIEF REPORT

## Routine Use of Tenecteplase for Acute Ischemic Stroke

Cathy S. Zhong<sup>1</sup>, MBChB\*;  
 Bruce C.V. Campbell<sup>2</sup>, MBBCh  
 Roderick Duncan, MD, PhD;  
 P. Alan Barber, MBChB, PhD

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:** Tenecteplase has some practical advantages over alteplase due to improved early recanalization and for consistency in treatment and safety outcomes in tenecteplase

**Table. Demographics, Stroke Reperfusion Metrics, and Outcome**

	Tenecteplase (n=165)	Alteplase (n=254)	P value
Male	93 (56%)	152 (60%)	0.48
Age, y	75 (64–84)	74 (62–83)	0.50
Onset-to-needle time, min	130 (97–183)	129 (100–175)	0.72
Door-to-needle time, min	47 (33–69)	48 (33–66)	0.93
Baseline NIHSS	8 (5–14)	10 (5–17)*	0.17
Large vessel occlusion	87 (53%)	118 (46%)	0.21
Endovascular thrombectomy	61 (37%)	61 (24%)	0.004
Angioedema	4 (2.4% [95% CI, 0.7%–6.2%])	1 (0.4% [95% CI, 0.01%–2.2%])	0.08†
Symptomatic intracerebral hemorrhage	3 (1.8% [95% CI, 0.4%–5.3%])	7 (2.7% [95% CI, 1.1%–5.7%])	0.75†
90-day functional independence‡	100 (61%)	140 (57%)	0.47

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 stroke networks,  
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**BRIEF REPORT**

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# Switching to Tenecteplase for Stroke Thrombolysis

## Real-World Experience and Outcomes in a Regional Stroke Network

Karim Mahawish<sup>id</sup>, MBChB; John Gommans<sup>id</sup>, MBChB; Timothy Kleinig, PhD; Bhavesh Lallu<sup>id</sup>, MBChB;  
Alicia Tyson<sup>id</sup>, BNurs PGdip; Annemarei Ranta<sup>id</sup>, MD, PhD

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:** Due to practical advantages, increasing trial safety data, recent Australian Guideline endorsement and local population needs we switched to tenecteplase for stroke thrombolysis from alteplase. We describe our change process and real-world outcome data.

**METHODS:** Mixed-methods including stakeholder engagement, preimplementation and postimplementation surveys, and assessment of patient treatment rates, metrics, and clinical outcomes preimplementation and postimplementation adjusting



**Table 2. Patient Outcomes**

	Tenecteplase	Alteplase	OR	aOR
	N=283	N=555		Model 1*
Death by day 7	21/283 (7.4%)	62/555 (11.2%)	0.64 (0.38–1.07)	0.46 (0.21–0.99)
sICH	5/283 (1.8%)	19/555 (3.4%)	0.51 (0.19–1.39)	0.46 (0.13–1.64)
Angioedema	2/283 (0.71%)	4/551 (0.72%)	0.98 (0.178–5.39)	1.40 (0.59–33.59)
3-month mRS score (0–2)§	147/231 (63.6%)	282/478 (60.0%)	1.24 (0.90–1.71)	2.17 (1.31–3.59)
3-month mRS (shift analysis)§			1.23 (0.93–1.63)	1.60 (1.15–2.22)

**Table 3. Time Metrics Across Multiple Time Points (Medians [IQR])**

Year group	Tenecteplase	Alteplase	P value
Door-to-needle time			
Tenecteplase vs alteplase all prior years	53 (38–73.5)	61 (45–86)	0.0002
Tenecteplase vs alteplase 2019	53 (38–73.5)	63.5 (48–95)	0.01
Alteplase 2018 vs 2019		60 (43–82)      63.5 (48–95)	0.052
Needle-to-groin time			
Tenecteplase vs alteplase all prior years	159 (124.5–258.5)	200 (174–255)	0.69



Comparative Effectiveness Of Routine Tenecteplase Thrombolysis In Acute Stroke Compared With Alteplase An International

## CERTAIN Collaboration

Multinational pooling of patient level data

Hospitals or networks that use tenecteplase as stroke thrombolytic

Include alteplase cases from sources

Assess workflow and clinical outcomes of tenecteplase in large samples

First Project: symptomatic ICH (sICH)



# Baseline Features, Total Sample

	Alteplase N=7313	Tenecteplase N=1925	P-value
Age (median years, IQR)	70 (58, 80)	73 (61, 81)	<0.001
Male (n, %)	3755 (51%)	1034 (55%)	0.007
NIHSS (median, IQR)	7 (4, 14)	9 (5, 17)	<0.001
Onset to needle (median minutes, IQR)	137 (98, 194)	160 (107, 246)	<0.001
Large vessel occlusion (n, %)	1745 (24%)	918 (48%)	<0.001
Systolic blood pressure (median mmHg, IQR)	153 (133, 176)	150 (130, 171)	<0.001
Glucose (median mmol/L, IQR)	6.6 (5.7, 8.5)	6.7 (5.7, 8.4)	0.365
Thrombectomy (n, %)	1465 (20%)	739 (38%)	<0.001

Tenecteplase group has greater baseline predictors of sICH



# Rate of sICH, Total Sample

	Alteplase N=7313	Tenecteplase N=1925	P-value
<b>sICH (n, %)</b>	<b>264 (3.6%)</b>	<b>35 (1.8%)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>



# Logistic regression, Total sample

	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P-value	N
<b>slCH unadjusted</b>	<b>0.49 (0.35, 0.71)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>9238</b>
<b>slCH adjusted*</b>	<b>0.42 (0.29, 0.61)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>8726</b>

Alteplase is reference category vs tenecteplase

\*Adjusted for age, sex, NIHSS, onset-to-needle time, thrombectomy



## Rate of sICH, *no mechanical thrombectomy*

	Alteplase N=5848	Tenecteplase N=1186	P-value
sICH (n, %)	<b>175 (3.0%)</b>	<b>17 (1.4%)</b>	<b>0.003</b>



# Logistic regression, *no mechanical thrombectomy*

	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P-value	N
sICH unadjusted	0.47 (0.29, 0.78)	0.003	7034
sICH adjusted*	0.46 (0.28, 0.77)	0.003	6628

Alteplase is reference category vs tenecteplase

\*Adjusted for age, sex, NIHSS, onset-to-needle time



# Baseline Features, *mechanical thrombectomy*

	Alteplase N=1465	Tenecteplase N=739	P-value
Age (median years, IQR)	70 (58, 80)	73 (62, 81)	<0.001
Male (n, %)	733 (50%)	408 (57%)	0.005
NIHSS (median, IQR)	15 (8, 21)	16 (9, 21)	0.229
Onset to needle (median minutes, IQR)	144 (97, 233)	199 (126, 304)	<0.001
Systolic blood pressure (median mmHg, IQR)	145 (120, 167)	145 (120, 166)	0.749
Glucose (median mmol/L, IQR)	6.7 (5.8, 8.5)	6.7 (5.8, 8.3)	0.570

Tenecteplase group has greater baseline predictors of sICH





# Rate of sICH, *mechanical thrombectomy*

	Alteplase N=1465	Tenecteplase N=739	P-value
sICH (n, %)	89 (5.9%)	18 (2.4%)	<0.001



# Logistic regression: *mechanical thrombectomy*

	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P-value	N
<b>sICH unadjusted</b>	<b>0.39 (0.23, 0.65)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>2204</b>
<b>sICH adjusted*</b>	<b>0.40 (0.24, 0.68)</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>2098</b>

Alteplase is reference category vs tenecteplase

\*Adjusted for age, sex, NIHSS, onset-to-needle time



# Limitations

- Non-randomized
- Unblinded
- Variability in definition and recording of registry source data



# Strengths

- Large sample
- Multinational, multicenter
- Rates of sICH agree with those from randomized trials; results unlikely due to bias



# Conclusions

- Incidence of symptomatic ICH in stroke patients treated with tenecteplase was half that of patients treated with alteplase
  - Overall and for both EVT and non-EVT subgroups
- Statistically significant differences that were not previously observed in smaller samples
- Supports tenecteplase safety in clinical practice, relative to alteplase



# Alteplase vs Tenecteplase randomized trials

2022



# Which Dose?

# Effect of Intravenous Tenecteplase Dose on Cerebral Reperfusion Before Thrombectomy in Patients With Large Vessel Occlusion Ischemic Stroke

## The EXTEND-IA TNK Part 2 Randomized Clinical Trial

Bruce C. V. Campbell, PhD; Peter J. Mitchell, MMed; Leonid Churilov, PhD; Nawaf Yassi, PhD; Timothy J. Kleinig, PhD; Richard J. Dowling, MBBS; Bernard Yan, DMedSci; Steven J. Bush, MBBS; Vincent Thijs, PhD; Rebecca Scroop, MBBS; Marion Simpson, MBBS; Mark Brooks, MBBS; Hamed Asadi, MBBS; Teddy Y. Wu, PhD; Darshan G. Shah, MBBS; Tissa Wijeratne, MD; Henry Zhao, MBBS; Fana Alemseged, MD; Felix Ng, MBBS; Peter Bailey, MD; Henry Rice, MBBS; Laetitia de Villiers, MBBS; Helen M. Dewey, PhD; Philip M. C. Choi, MBChB; Helen Brown, MB BCh BAO; Kendal Redmond, MBBS; David Leggett, MBBS; John N. Fink, MBChB; Wayne Collecutt, MBBS; Thomas Kraemer, MD; Martin Krause, MD; Dennis Cordato, PhD; Deborah Field, MBBS; Henry Ma, PhD; Bill O'Brien, MBBS; Benjamin Clissold, MBBS; Ferdinand Miteff, MBBS; Anna Clissold, MBBS; Geoffrey C. Cloud, MBBS; Leslie E. Bolitho, MBBS; Luke Bonavia, MBBS; Arup Bhattacharya, MBBS; Alistair Wright, MBBS; Abul Mamun, MBBS; Fintan O'Rourke, MBBS; John Worthington, MBBS; Andrew A. Wong, PhD; Christopher R. Levi, MBBS; Christopher F. Bladin, MD; Gagan Sharma, MCA; Patricia M. Desmond, MD; Mark W. Parsons, PhD; Geoffrey A. Donnan, MD; Stephen M. Davis, MD; for the EXTEND-IA TNK Part 2 investigators

**IMPORTANCE** Intravenous thrombolysis with tenecteplase improves reperfusion prior to endovascular thrombectomy for ischemic stroke compared with alteplase.

**OBJECTIVE** To determine whether 0.40 mg/kg of tenecteplase safely improves reperfusion before endovascular thrombectomy vs 0.25 mg/kg of tenecteplase in patients with large vessel occlusion ischemic stroke.

[+ Visual Abstract](#)

[+ Supplemental content](#)



# Effect of Intravenous Tenecteplase Dose on Cerebral Perfusion Before Thrombectomy in Large Vessel Occlusion Ischemic Stroke: The EXTEND-4 Trial

Bruce C. V. Campbell, MD; Bernard Yan, DMed; Hamed Asadi, MBBS; Peter Bailey, MD; Kendal Redmond, MD; Dennis Cordato, PhD; Geoffrey C. Cloud, MD; Fintan O'Rourke, MD; Patricia M. Desmond, MD

Yingling, MBBS; MBBS; Hui Xing, MBBS; Chao, MD; Anna Clissold, MBBS; Hui, MBBS; Ganesh, MCA; Investigators

## IMPORTANCE

endovascular

## OBJECTIVE

To

before endovascular thrombectomy in large vessel occlusion ischemic stroke.

**Randomized**

**LVO by CTA and thrombectomy candidate**

**TNK dose comparison: 0.25 vs 0.4 mg/kg**

**N (TNK) = 150 each group**

**? Substantial reperfusion on angiogram prior to EVT**

**No difference on reperfusion, sICH or mRS**

**No advantage to doses higher than 0.25 mg/kg**

Abstract

Additional content

# Tenecteplase versus alteplase for the management of acute ischaemic stroke in Norway (NOR-TEST 2, part A): a phase 3, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint, non-inferiority trial



*Christopher Elnan Kvistad, Halvor Næss, Bernt H Helleberg, Titto Idicula, Guri Hagberg, Linn Marie Nordby, Kristian N Jenssen, Håkon Tobro, Dag M Rørholt, Kamaljit Kaur, Agnethe Eltoft, Kristin Evensen, Judit Haasz, Guruparan Singaravel, Annette Fromm, Lars Thomassen*

## Summary

**Background** Tenecteplase is a modified tissue plasminogen activator with pharmacological and practical advantages over alteplase—which is currently the only approved thrombolytic drug for ischaemic stroke. The NOR-TEST trial showed that 0·4 mg/kg tenecteplase had an efficacy and safety profile similar to that of a standard dose (0·9 mg/kg) of alteplase, albeit in a patient population with a high prevalence of minor stroke. The aim of NOR-TEST 2 was to establish the non-inferiority of tenecteplase 0·4 mg/kg to alteplase 0·9 mg/kg for patients with moderate or severe ischaemic stroke.

**Methods** This phase 3, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint, non-inferiority trial was performed at 11 hospitals with stroke units in Norway. Patients with suspected acute ischaemic stroke with a National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score of 6 or more who were eligible for thrombolysis and admitted within 4·5 h of symptom onset were consecutively included. Random assignment, done by a computer with a block size of 4 and with allocations placed into opaque envelopes to be opened consecutively, was 1:1 between intravenous tenecteplase (0·4 mg/kg) or standard dose alteplase (0·9 mg/kg). Doctors and nurses providing acute care were not masked to treatment, but primary outcome assessment at 3 months was masked. The primary outcome was favourable functional outcome defined as a modified Rankin Scale score of 0–1 at 3 months, assessed in the modified intention to treat analysis (excluding

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Department of Neurology (C E Kvistad PhD, Prof H Næss PhD, A Fromm MD PhD, Prof L Thomassen PhD) and Department of Radiology (J Haasz PhD, G Singaravel MD), Haukeland University Hospital,





# Comparison of tenecteplase with alteplase for the early treatment of ischaemic stroke in the Melbourne Mobile Stroke Unit (TASTE-A): a phase 2, randomised, open-label trial



Andrew Bivard, Henry Zhao, Leonid Churilov, Bruce CV Campbell, Skye Coote, Nawaf Yassi, Bernard Yan, Michael Valente, Angelos Sharobeam, Anna H Balabanski, Angela Dos Santos, Jo Lyn Ng, Vignan Yogendrakumar, Felix Ng, Francesca Langenberg, Damien Easton, Alex Warwick, Elizabeth Mackey, Amy MacDonald BN, Gagan Sharma, Michael Stephenson, Karen Smith, David Anderson, Philip Choi, Vincent Thijs, Henry Ma, Geoffrey C Cloud, Tissa Wijeratne, Liudmyla Olenko, Dominic Italiano, Stephen M Davis, Geoffrey A Donnan, Mark W Parsons, on behalf of the TASTE-A collaborators\*

## Summary

**Background** Mobile stroke units (MSUs) equipped with a CT scanner reduce time to thrombolytic treatment and improve patient outcomes. We tested the hypothesis that tenecteplase administered in an MSU would result in superior reperfusion at hospital arrival, when compared with alteplase.

**Methods** The TASTE-A trial is a phase 2, randomised, open-label trial at the Melbourne MSU and five tertiary hospitals in Melbourne, VIC, Australia. Patients (aged  $\geq 18$  years) with ischaemic stroke who were eligible for thrombolytic treatment were randomly allocated in the MSU to receive, within 4.5 h of symptom onset, either standard-of-care alteplase (0.9 mg/kg [maximum 90 mg], administered intravenously with 10% as a bolus over 1 min and 90% as an infusion over 1 h), or the investigational product tenecteplase (0.25 mg/kg [maximum 25 mg], administered as an intravenous bolus over 10 s), before being transported to hospital for ongoing care. The primary outcome was the volume of the perfusion lesion on arrival at hospital, assessed by CT-perfusion imaging. Secondary safety outcomes were modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score of 5 or 6 at 90 days, symptomatic intracerebral haemorrhage and any haemorrhage within 36 h, and death at 90 days. Assessors were masked to treatment allocation. Analysis was by intention to treat. The trial was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT04071613, and is completed.

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\*TASTE-A collaborators listed at the end of the Article

Department of Medicine and Neurology, Melbourne Brain Centre at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, Australia (A Bivard PhD)

# Comparison of tenecteplase with alteplase for the early treatment of ischaemic stroke in the Melbourne Mobile Stroke Unit: an open-label randomised controlled trial



Andrew Bivard, Hermina Kallinikos, Anna H Balabanski, Elizabeth Mackey, Alistair J Mitchell, Geoffrey C Cloud, TASTE-A collaborators

## Summary

**Background** Mobile stroke units may improve patient outcomes by providing superior reperfusion.

**Methods** The TASTE-A trial was conducted in Melbourne, Australia. Patients were randomised to receive alteplase (0.9 mg/kg) or tenecteplase (0.25 mg/kg) intravenously bolus over 5 minutes. The volume of the perfusion lesion was modified.

haemorrhage within 36 h, and death at 90 days. Assessors were masked to treatment allocation. Analysis was by intention to treat. The trial was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT04071613, and is completed.

**Phase 2 Mobile Stroke Unit**

**Randomized, Open**

**< 4.5 hr; 0.25 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**N = 55 (TNK), 49 (ALT)**

**Volume of Perfusion Lesion (CTP) on hospital arrival**

**Smaller perfusion volume with TNK**

**Quicker door-to-needle**

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474-4422(22)00172-7

TASTE-A collaborators listed at

the end of the Article

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Hospital, University of

Melbourne, Parkville, VIC,

Australia (A Bivard PhD)



## Design

- Prospective randomised open trial with blinded endpoint assessment
- Target sample size: 600 patients
- Inclusion criteria:
  - Wake-up stroke with limb weakness and NIHSS score  $\geq 3$ , or aphasia
  - Possible to treat within 4.5 hours of awakening
- Main exclusion criteria:
  - Intracranial hemorrhage
  - Infarct size  $>1/3$  of the middle cerebral artery territory
  - NIHSS score  $>25$  or NIHSS consciousness score  $>2$
  - mRS  $\geq 3$



Melinda B. Roaldsen



- Prospective
- Target sample size
- Inclusion criteria
  - Wake-up
  - Possible
- Main exclusion criteria
  - Intracranial
  - Infarct size
  - NIHSS score
  - mRS  $\geq 3$

## Phase 3 Wake-up Stroke

Randomized, PROBE

< 4.5 hr from awakening

0.25 mg/kg TNK (N=288) vs standard care (N=290)

Imaging Screen Non-contrast CT

mRS at 3 month 45% (TNK) vs 38% (ns)

More EVT in control arm



aldsen



# Intravenous tenecteplase compared with alteplase for acute ischaemic stroke in Canada (AcT): a pragmatic, multicentre, open-label, registry-linked, randomised, controlled, non-inferiority trial



*Bijoy K Menon, Brian H Buck, Nishita Singh, Yan Deschaintre, Mohammed A Almekhlafi, Shelagh B Coutts, Sibi Thirunavukkarasu, Houman Khosravani, Ramana Appireddy, Francois Moreau, Gord Gubitz, Aleksander Tkach, Luciana Catanese, Dar Dowlatshahi, George Medvedev, Jennifer Mandzia, Aleksandra Pikula, Jai Shankar, Heather Williams, Thalia S Field, Alejandro Manosalva, Muzaffar Siddiqui, Atif Zafar, Oje Imoukhuede, Gary Hunter, Andrew M Demchuk, Sachin Mishra, Laura C Gioia, Shirin Jalini, Caroline Cayer, Stephen Phillips, Elsadig Elamin, Ashkan Shoamanesh, Suresh Subramaniam, Mahesh Kate, Gregory Jacquin, Marie-Christine Camden, Faysal Benali, Ibrahim Alhabli, Fouzi Bala, MacKenzie Horn, Grant Stotts, Michael D Hill, David J Gladstone, Alexandre Poppe, Arshia Sehgal, Qiao Zhang, Brendan Cord Lethebe, Craig Doram, Ayoola Ademola, Michel Shamy, Carol Kenney, Tolulope T Sajobi, Richard H Swartz, for the AcT Trial Investigators*

## Summary

**Background** Intravenous thrombolysis with alteplase bolus followed by infusion is a global standard of care for patients with acute ischaemic stroke. We aimed to determine whether tenecteplase given as a single bolus might increase reperfusion compared with this standard of care.

**Methods** In this multicentre, open-label, parallel-group, registry-linked, randomised, controlled trial (AcT), patients were enrolled from 22 primary and comprehensive stroke centres across Canada. Patients were eligible for inclusion if they were aged 18 years or older, with a diagnosis of ischaemic stroke causing disabling neurological deficit

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# Intravenous tenecteplase compared with alteplase for acute

ischaemic stroke  
open-label  
non-inferiority



**Phase 3. 0.25 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**Randomized, Open, Registry-based, Non-inferiority**

**< 4.5 hr. Thrombolytic Eligible**

**N = 771 (TNK), 806 (ALT)**

**Non-inferiority demonstrated**

**No differences in sICH**

**Outcomes trend better in LVO with TNK**

*Bijoy K Menon, Brian  
Houman Khosravani,  
Jennifer Mandzia, Al  
Oje Imoukhuede, Gar  
Ashkan Shoamanesh,  
MacKenzie Horn, Gro  
Ayoola Ademola, Mi*

## Summary

**Background** Intravenous thrombolysis improves outcomes in patients with acute ischaemic stroke. The aim of this study was to evaluate the non-inferiority of tenecteplase compared with alteplase for acute ischaemic stroke.

**Methods** In this open-label, randomized, registry-based, non-inferiority trial, patients were enrolled from 100 hospitals in 10 countries.

Patients were included if they were aged 18 years or older, with a diagnosis of ischaemic stroke causing disabling neurological deficit.

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# Intravenous tenecteplase compared with alteplase for acute

ischaemic stroke  
open-label  
non-inferiority



**Phase 3. 0.25 mg/kg TNK vs ALT**

**Randomized, Open, Registry-based, Non-inferiority**

**< 4.5 hr. Thrombolytic Eligible**

**N = 771 (TNK), 806 (ALT)**

**Non-inferiority demonstrated**

**Weighted tiered dosing (10kg increments): >0.25mg/kg**

**94% in CSCs**

*Bijoy K Menon, Brian  
Houman Khosravani,  
Jennifer Mandzia, Al  
Oje Imoukhuede, Gar  
Ashkan Shoamanesh,  
MacKenzie Horn, Gro  
Ayoola Ademola, Mi*

## Summary

**Background** Intravenous thrombolysis improves outcomes in patients with acute ischaemic stroke. Intravenous alteplase (ALT) increases reperfusion.

**Methods** In this phase 3 trial, patients were enrolled from 100 sites in 15 countries if they were aged 18 years or older, with a diagnosis of ischaemic stroke causing disabling neurological deficit.

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# On going Phase 3 RCTs with tenecteplase vs alteplase <4.5 hours

<b>Trial</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>ATTEST-2</b>	<b>Superiority, mRS shift</b>	<b>Not EVT eligible</b>	<b>1870</b>
<b>TASTE-2</b>	<b>Superiority, mRS 0-1</b>	<b>LVO; favorable perfusion pattern</b>	<b>1024</b>
<b>TRACE-II</b>	<b>Non-inferiority, mRS 0-1</b>	<b>Not EVT eligible</b>	<b>1430</b>



# Other clinical trials with tenecteplase

<b>Trial</b>	<b>Time window</b>	<b>Control arm</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>TEMPO-2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>SOC</b>	<b>minor stroke with proven occlusion</b>	<b>1274</b>
<b>BRIDGE-TNK</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>no lytic</b>	<b>LVO</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>DIRECT-TNK</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>placebo</b>	<b>Mechanical thrombectomy</b>	<b>530</b>
<b>RESILIENT</b>	<b>4.5-12</b>	<b>placebo</b>	<b>Non-LVO</b>	<b>642</b>
<b>TIMELESS</b>	<b>&gt; 4.5 &lt; 24</b>	<b>placebo</b>	<b>LVO with penumbra</b>	<b>456</b>
<b>ETERNAL</b>	<b>&lt; 24</b>	<b>SOC</b>	<b>Anterior Circ LVO with penumbra</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>POST-ETERNAL</b>	<b>&lt; 24</b>	<b>SOC</b>	<b>Basilar artery occlusion</b>	<b>688</b>



# Tenecteplase as stroke Thrombolytic (as of July 2022)

Data supports tenecteplase as a thrombolytic option

Data indicates at least non-inferiority to alteplase

Possible superiority in early recanalization, safety, 90-day mRS, but confirmation required



## Implications for non-TNK clinical trials

- Regulatory: Off-label of thrombolytic use in FDA regulated trials seeking new indication for a drug or device in addition to lytic.
- Design: Trial could limit to one drug but that has recruitment rate and generalizability issues. Currently ~ 20% lytic cases in US are with TNK
- Statistics: If ALT and TNK have different effects – sICH, recanalization rates – how does that affect trial planning, assumptions of effect size for the non-lytic intervention being tested? Stratify randomization sufficient?