

Date:

Patient name:

ASPECTS Score (Alberta stroke programme early CT score)

The **Alberta stroke programme early CT score (ASPECTS)** is a 10-point quantitative topographic CT scan score used in patients with middle cerebral artery (MCA) stroke. Segmental assessment of the MCA vascular territory is made and 1 point is deducted from the initial score of 10 for every region involved:

- caudate
- putamen
- internal capsule
- insular cortex
- M1: "anterior MCA cortex," corresponding to frontal operculum
- M2: "MCA cortex lateral to insular ribbon" corresponding to anterior temporal lobe
- M3: "posterior MCA cortex" corresponding to posterior temporal lobe
- M4: "anterior MCA territory immediately superior to M1"
- M5: "lateral MCA territory immediately superior to M2"
- M6: "posterior MCA territory immediately superior to M3"

Important points

- 1 the initial paper specifically referred to the internal capsule only involving the posterior limb, however subsequent articles indicate any portion of the internal capsule may be included
- 2 M1 to M3 are at the level of the basal ganglia
- 3 M4 to M6 are at the level of the ventricles immediately above the basal ganglia

Clinical use

An ASPECTS score less than or equal to 7 predicts worse functional outcome at 3 months as well as symptomatic haemorrhage.

According to study done by R.I Aviv et al 3 patients with ASPECTS score less than 8 treated with thrombolysis did not have a good clinical outcome.