

Dear Editor,

There are several articles discuss the correlation between a high NIHSS score and an increased risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in acute stroke patients. However, most of these articles fail to explain how the NIHSS score, primarily used to assess the severity of stroke, serves as a predictive factor for VTE. While a high NIHSS score indicates a more severe stroke, it is not typically regarded as an independent risk factor for deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in acute stroke patients(1). However, NIHSS has been shown to be a strong predictor of functional recovery in acute stroke patients undergoing thrombolysis. A 24-hour NIHSS score, for instance, has been identified as a useful clinical marker for predicting functional outcomes after intravenous thrombolysis in acute ischemic stroke patients(2). As a suggestion, incorporating the Caprini score as a predictive tool for VTE risk in acute stroke patients may provide further clarity and enhance risk stratification in this population(3).

References:

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- (2) You, S., Wang, Y., Wang, X., Maeda, T., Ouyang, M., Han, Q., Li, Q., Song, L., Zhao, Y., Chen, C., Delcourt, C., Ren, X., Carcel, C., Zhou, Z., Cao, Y., Liu, C. F., Zheng, D., Arima, H., Robinson, T. G., Chen, X., ... Anderson, C. S. (2024). Twenty-Four-Hour Post-Thrombolysis NIHSS Score As the Strongest Prognostic Predictor After Acute Ischemic Stroke: ENCHANTED Study. *Journal of the American Heart Association*, 13(18), e036109. <https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.124.036109>
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