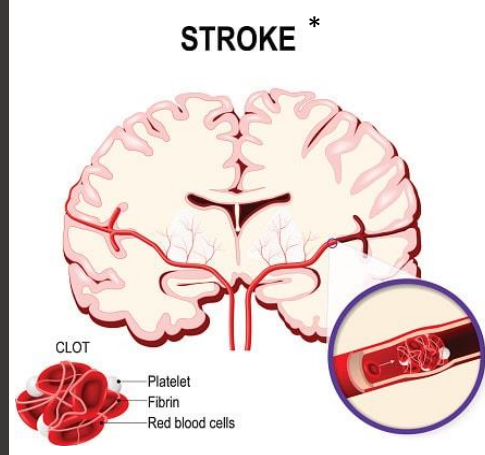




Understanding LAMS



What is LAMS?

- Los Angeles Motor Scale (LAMS) is a simple and valid assessment of stroke severity
- It is a tool being used by Paramedics in the field across Ontario as part of their acute stroke protocol assessment (0-6 hours post-stroke onset)

What does “LAMS positive” mean?

A score of 4 or 5 is considered “positive”. A positive score means the person is likely having a **large vessel occlusion (LVO) stroke** and therefore could be eligible for **endovascular thrombectomy (EVT)** to reduce disability

Why are the Paramedics telling me the result of their LAMS screen?

During the patch call while enroute to hospital, the Paramedic will either relay the LAMS score to you or will state that their acute stroke patient is “LAMS positive/negative” or “LVO positive/negative”

LAMS SCORECARD

Would this stroke patient benefit from EVT?

**STEP 1
FACIAL DROOP**

Ask the person to smile. Is there any weakness or facial droop?

0 Absent
1 Facial droop present

**STEP 2
Arm Drift**

Bring the person's arm(s) up to a 90° angle and ask them to hold that position for 10 seconds. Is there any drift or drop of an arm?

0 Absent
1 Drifts Down
2 Falls Rapidly

**STEP 3
Grip Strength**

Ask the person to grip your hands. Does one hand have less power than the other?

0 Normal
1 Weak Grip
2 No Grip

LVO positive if score is ≥ 4

**STEP 4
Add the Score**

Total possible score of 5

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

What do I do with this information?

- Record/note this information as it becomes **additional clinical information** to share with the physician(s) involved
- **Sharing “LVO positive or LVO negative” with the physician(s)** will contribute to time-sensitive decisions around treatment options for the patient
- Urgent brain imaging and other elements of our **acute stroke protocol**, for those presenting 0-6 hours after stroke onset, **continues regardless of LAMS score**



* Image from: www.belmarrahealth.com/ischemic-vs-hemorrhagic-stroke-causes-symptoms-treatment-prognosis/