

# CRITICAL ASPECT OF TIA MANAGEMENT AND PERSPECTIVES FOR QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT: DATA FROM THE TIA FAST-TRACK PROJECT - REGIONE LOMBARDIA (ITALY)

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**Background and Purpose**— *The accuracy and economical efficiency of standard TIA care was evaluated as a basis for a Project aimed to validate the performance of an optimized Fast-Track-model for TIA-Management: data from n.557 consecutive confirmed cases (2014) have been collected for comparison with 2015-16 cases-series (Prospective Study) managed following the optimized Protocol.*

**Methods**— *The average cost of diagnosis and other variables related to the impact of TIAs on Health Care System have been analyzed (retrospective studies/info-system Regione Lombardia). A Data-base has then been developed to collect clinically relevant items, neurodiagnostic exams (performed as in-/out- patient) and other variables from a series of incident cases (n.557) in order to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the optimized Fast-Track-Protocol (Prospective Series -ongoing) versus the standard care model. A specific training for ED Operators and Telemedicine facilities were also part of the Project (Regione Lombardia- grant n.9269/2012) .*

**Results**- *In the standard model 63.7% of confirmed TIA cases were admitted to the Hospital with a mean length of stay = 6.5 days ( $\pm$  3.5 SD). Triage codes (OR = 2.5 - 95% CI 1.7-3.7), duration of symptoms >1h (OR = 2.1, 95% CI 1.1-3.9) and ABCD2 scores  $\geq$ 4 (OR = 1.8; 1.2-2.8) significantly correlated with Hospital admission. TIA frequency clearly increased with age and was significantly associated with vascular comorbidities and RFs.*

**Conclusions**—*A TIA Fast-Track-Protocol based on early Neurological Triage and accurate Neuro/Cardio-vascular assessment is expected to reduce both Hospital stay and the risk of short-term major ischemic events.*

## References

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