



University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education  
Division of Prehospital and Emergency Healthcare

## ADVANCED STROKE LIFE SUPPORT® (ASLS®)

### ◆ HOSPITAL-BASED PROVIDERS ◆

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the prehospital, emergency department, and stroke unit management of patients with acute stroke. Using interactive discussions, hands-on workshops, multimedia (video case-based scenarios) and standardized patient simulations (for stroke syndrome identification and management decision-making), the course includes a discussion of the differential diagnosis of stroke, rapid recognition of five major stroke syndromes, training in the use of the Miami Emergency Neurologic Deficit (M.E.N.D.) exam (based on the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale and incorporating the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale), education regarding the use of thrombolytic therapy in acute ischemic stroke patients, and a detailed discussion of the acute care of stroke patients in the hospital, including prevention of medical complications, rehabilitation in the acute setting, the diagnostic evaluation, secondary stroke prevention strategies, and discharge planning for the patient and family. This course is appropriate for both new and experienced providers, particularly nurses and physicians who work in the emergency departments, stroke unit, and stroke-unit equivalents.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Describe why early treatment of patients with acute ischemic stroke may result in a marked reduction in risk of disability
2. Identify the five main stroke syndromes and relate them to pathophysiology and clinical signs
3. Perform a focused neurologic evaluation to identify stroke, its location, and severity
4. Recognize t-PA indications and contraindications
5. Describe the logistics of an acute stroke team
6. Outline the protocol for t-PA administration to acute ischemic stroke patients and endovascular treatments
7. Explain the care and monitoring of acute ischemic stroke patients post t-PA administration
8. Describe the six aspects of acute stroke care for hospitalized patients.

### ◆ PREHOSPITAL PROVIDERS ◆

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the prehospital management of patients with acute stroke. The course includes a discussion of the differential diagnosis of stroke, rapid recognition of five major stroke syndromes, training in the use of the Miami Emergency Neurologic Deficit (M.E.N.D.) exam (based on the NIH Stroke Scale and incorporating the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale), and education regarding the use of thrombolytic therapy in acute ischemic stroke patients. It uses interactive discussions, hands-on workshops, multimedia (video case-based scenarios) and standardized patient simulations (for stroke syndrome identification and disposition/management decision-making). This course is appropriate for both new and experienced providers.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Describe why early treatment of patients with acute ischemic stroke may result in a marked reduction in risk of disability
2. Identify the five main stroke syndromes and relate them to pathophysiology and clinical signs
3. Perform a focused neurologic evaluation to identify stroke, its location, and severity
4. Recognize t-PA indications and contraindications
5. Define the chain of survival and recovery for stroke using the 8 Ds
6. Describe the principles of prehospital stroke management that make up the current standard of care
7. Determine when to call a stroke alert and quickly transport the patient to the nearest appropriate facility
8. Communicate clearly and succinctly with ED personnel regarding symptoms, time of onset, neurologic exam, and t-PA contraindications.