

Stroke—as paramedics, we know that a stroke is a loss of brain function due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain due to ischaemia, caused by thrombosis, or haemorrhage.

So why do we measure a patient's blood sugar when we suspect they have had a stroke?

- **'It is well known that noncerebrovascular conditions can present with a clinical picture mimicking stroke, so early accurate differentiation of such 'mimics' from true strokes is essential.'**¹ Hypoglycaemic patients can present with stroke-like symptoms including decreased GCS and hemiparesis.
- **Most human studies show that hyperglycaemia in patients with acute stroke is associated with a worse clinical outcome than patients without hyperglycaemia**²
- **'Normalisation of blood glucose during the first 48 hours of hospitalisation appears to confer a potent survival benefit in patients with thromboembolic stroke.'**³

References 1 'Conditions That Mimic Stroke in the Emergency Department' (R Libman, E Wirkowski, J Alvir and T Hemanth Rao) 2 'The Role of Hyperglycaemia in Acute Stroke' (N Kagansky, S Levy and H Knobler) 3 'Decreased Mortality by Normalizing Blood Glucose After Acute Ischaemic Stroke' (N Gentile, M Seftchick, T Huynh, L Kruus and J Gaughan)

To give your feedback or for more information on references, please contact Kate Wood at kate.wood@iow.nhs.uk