



Incidental Carotid or Vertebral Artery Stenosis

Management of asymptomatic or symptomatic extracranial carotid or vertebral artery stenosis noted on CTA or ultrasound (US) doppler.



Carotid stenosis noted on CTA or US doppler

Symptomatic and $\geq 50\%$ stenosis of carotid artery

OR

Asymptomatic and $\geq 70\%$ stenosis of carotid artery



Vessel location involving:

- Internal carotid artery – Petrous segment C2 (where the ICA enters the skull) or below this level
- Common carotid artery



Vertebral artery stenosis noted on CTA

Symptomatic and

Vessel location involving:

- V1 segment only (where the vertebral artery comes off subclavian artery)



“Symptomatic” is defined as:

Ischemic phenomenon involving territory distal to involved vessel – either due to embolism or hypoperfusion.



Please place consultation to Vascular Surgery

for consideration of vessel revascularization.



Questions about whether the patient is symptomatic or asymptomatic?

Please review with Neurology to help determine if the findings represent a symptomatic event.



Key Points

- “**Symptomatic**” refers to an ischemic event involving the territory distal to the involved vessel (e.g., TIA/CVA, retinal ischemia) due to embolism or hypoperfusion.
- **Carotid**: consider Vascular Surgery consult for symptomatic $\geq 50\%$ or asymptomatic $\geq 70\%$ stenosis.
- **Vertebral**: consider Vascular Surgery consult for symptomatic V1 segment stenosis only (origin from subclavian artery).