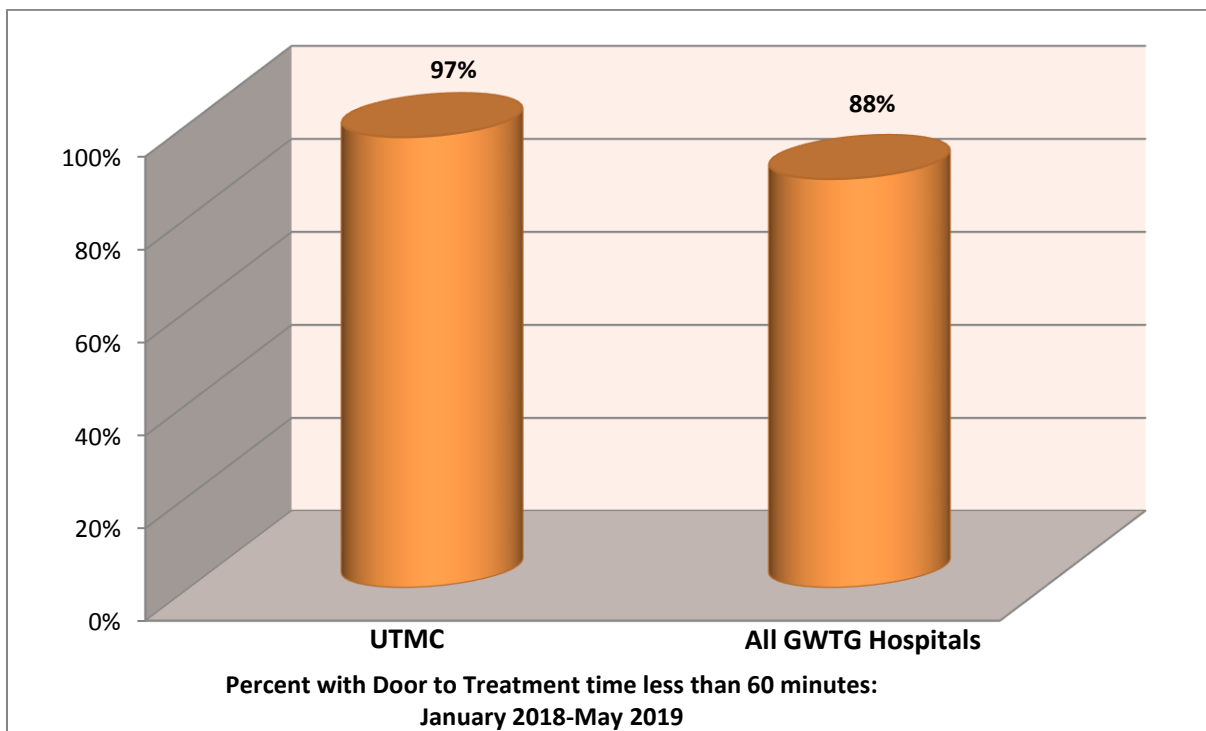


Current guidelines for the treatment of ischemic stroke include recommendations for treatment with intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA, also called alteplase) in patients meeting specific criteria. t-PA (alteplase) must be given within a specified time frame in order help decrease disability from ischemic stroke. Strategies to reduce the amount of time it takes for evaluation of stroke and treatment with t-PA (alteplase) are an important part of stroke center operations.

A national emphasis, led by the American Stroke Association, on decreasing “door to treatment” times for patients receiving IV t-PA (alteplase) has resulted in improvement in treatment times across the country. The goal set for the initiative is that at least 85% of patients receiving IV t-PA (alteplase) will be treated in 60 minutes or less. The University of Tennessee Medical Center Stroke Center, recognized as a Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus facility, has established a team approach to ensure timely treatment of stroke. Our times are consistently below the 60 minute target.



UTMC = The University of Tennessee Medical Center

GWTG = *Get with the Guidelines*

Source: *Get with the Guidelines*, used by permission.