## **BMJ** Best Practice



Funded by Health Education England, free to all NHS staff and learners.

## Can you diagnose this patient?

## A 70-year-old man has weakness in his right arm and leg.

It came on suddenly about two hours ago. He is unable to stand on his own or walk. You ask him if he has any pain but he is not really able to speak. He seems to have trouble getting the words out. His wife tells you that he is right handed.



He has a past history of hypertension and type 2 diabetes. He normally takes an ACE inhibitor and metformin - even though his wife says that he sometimes forgets to take them.

On examination, he is unable to raise his right arm or leg. He cannot speak but does understand instructions. His blood pressure is 180/110 mmHg. His pulse rate is 80 / minute and irregular. His bedside blood glucose is normal.

- What is the most likely diagnosis?
- What tests would you do and how urgently?
- What is the best immediate management for this man?

Access BMJ Best Practice for fast answers to these important questions wherever you are, both online and offline.

