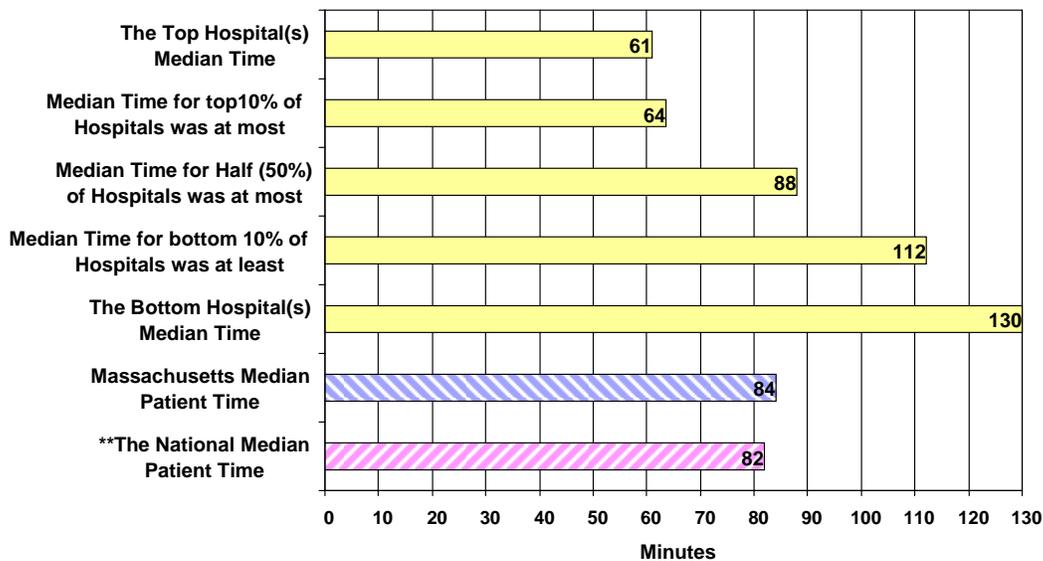


Treatment with IV-tPA

6. Median times (in minutes) from Emergency Department arrival to IV-tPA administration in IV-tPA recipients.

Prompt treatment of eligible ischemic stroke patients with IV-tPA improves the chances of survival and increases the degree of recovery that may be expected. The following graph shows the median* times from ED arrival to IV-tPA administration for acute stroke patients who received IV-tPA in MA PSS hospital Emergency Departments. Reporting the median time is another way to measure how swiftly hospitals are delivering treatment. (A median time of 88 minutes, for example, tells you that half of the patients who were treated with IV-tPA were treated in less than 88 minutes, and half were treated in more than 88 minutes.)

Fig. 6. Median times (minutes) from Emergency Department arrival to IV-tPA administration for IV-tPA recipients



Note: 572 patients received IV-tPA in 62 Massachusetts hospitals in 2006 and 2007. 7 Massachusetts hospitals had no patients who received IV-tPA and were excluded from the analysis. Nationally, 9,336 patients received IV-tPA in 1,335 hospitals.

**The national comparative statistics are provided from the American Heart Association's *Get With The GuidelinesSM-Stroke Program*.

The hospitals are distributed as follows: 10% = 7 hospitals, 50% = 32 hospitals and the bottom 10% = 7.

What does this graph show?

This graph shows that half of the patients given IV-tPA in the top hospital received it within 61 minutes from the time the patient arrived at the Emergency Department. The top 10% (7 hospitals) gave IV-tPA to half their patients from within 61 to 64 minutes from ED arrival. Fifty percent (32 hospitals) gave IV-tPA to half their patients from within 61 to 88 minutes from ED arrival and the 90% (55 hospitals) gave IV-tPA to half within 61 to 112 minutes. Half of the patients given IV-tPA in the bottom hospitals received it within 130 minutes from ED arrival. Seven hospitals did not treat any ischemic stroke patients with IV-tPA. Overall, half of the 572 patients receiving IV-tPA in Massachusetts were given IV-tPA within 84 minutes of ED arrival, while nationwide, half received IV-tPA within 82 minutes.

* A median is a statistical term meaning the middle value in a group or numbers, above and below which lie an equal number of values. For example, a hospital treats 5 patients with IV-tPA in the following times from when the patient arrived at the emergency department; 64 minutes, 72 minutes, 74 minutes, 79 minutes, and 88 minutes. The median is 74 minutes because 2 patients received IV-tPA in less time and two patients received IV-tPA in more time.