**Absolute Exclusion Criteria**

- **Physical Exam:**
  - Active bleeding
  - Cardiac tamponade
  - Bacterial endocarditis
  - SBP > 185 or DBP > 110 on 2 readings, 15-min apart & refractory to IV labetalol

- **Radiological Exclusion:**
  - Cerebral hemorrhage
  - Diagnosis of brain tumor, AVM or aneurysm

- **General:**
  - Pregnancy
  - Major surgery within the past 2 weeks
  - GI or GU bleed within the past 3 weeks
  - Known bleeding disorder
  - Arterial puncture at a non-compressible site within the past 7 days
  - Severe head injury or history of stroke within the past 3 months
  - History of ICH, SAH or SDH
  - Diagnosis of brain tumor, AVM or aneurysm

- **Laboratory Results:**
  - Concurrent use of coumadin and INR > 1.7
  - Heparin use and PTT 35 sec.
  - Platelet count < 100,000
  - Blood glucose > 400
  - Positive urin prenegancy test

**Relative Exclusion Criteria**

- Blood glucose <50
- Seizure at stroke onset
- Lacunar syndrome
- NIHSS score <3 or >22
- Rapid improvement
- DWI or CT abnormality of > 1/3 of MCA territory
- Positive T2* abnormalities (microbleeds)
- Positive stool guaiac
- Abdominal or thoracic aneurysm
- EKG changes
- History of MI within the past 3 weeks

The following exclusion criteria apply to patients presenting between 3 to 4.5 hours of stroke onset:

- Age >80
- History of both prior stroke AND diabetes
- Any anticoagulant use (even if INR < 1.7)
- Hypodensity > 1/3 MCA territory on CT scan