30 days is extremely important. It is unjustified to apply published results to other units unassociated with said publications. Over the last two decades, most specialist units have found a stroke/death risk in symptomatic patients of approximately 2% validated by neurologists. This comprises 0% ipsilateral stroke, but with MI death, contralateral stroke and cerebral haemorrhage from reperfusion, contributing to the overall 2%.

In the UK, with league tables now in fashion, if would be useful for patients and doctors alike, if carotid endarterectomies were publicly audited and published as they were last year for aortic aneurysm repair.

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