



#### Box 4.2: Inclusion Criteria for Endovascular Therapy

##### Endovascular therapy inclusion criteria:

- ❑ If intravenous tPA is given in conjunction with endovascular therapy, refer to Box 4.1 for additional inclusion criteria.
- ❑ **Age:** Patients over 18 years of age. There is no current evidence for use of endovascular therapy in paediatric populations and it should not be used outside of a clinical trial.
- ❑ **Clinical presentation:** Functionally disabling stroke.
- ❑ **Imaging:**
  - A small-to-moderate ischemic core (with ASPECTS score of 6 or higher).
    - For patients with ASPECTS score less than 6, the decision to treat should be based on the potential benefits and risks of the therapy, made by a physician with stroke expertise in consultation with the patient and/or family/substitute decision-makers.
  - Intracranial artery occlusion in the anterior circulation, including proximal large vessel occlusions in the distal ICA, MCA/ACA and immediate branches.
    - For patients with basilar artery occlusions, the decision to treat with endovascular therapy should be based on the potential benefits and risks of the therapy, made by a physician with stroke expertise in consultation with the patient and/or decision-makers.
  - Either of:
    - Moderate-to-good collateral circulation demonstrated using multiphase or dynamic CTA. [See Box 4.3 for definitions.](#)

**OR**

  - If CT perfusion imaging is used, the specific imaging characteristics to define perfusion mismatch and a small-to-moderate ischemic core should be adapted based on available CT scanner and software technology.
- ❑ **Time to treatment:** Endovascular therapy should be considered for patients in whom treatment can be initiated within 6 hours of symptom onset and may be considered for those in whom treatment can be initiated within 12 hours from stroke symptom onset. Specifically:
  - Patients should have immediate neurovascular imaging (see above) to determine eligibility. Patients can be considered for imaging within a 12-hour window from stroke onset.
  - Within less than 6 hours from onset of symptoms to initiation of treatment (i.e. groin puncture), all patients who meet eligibility criteria should be treated.
  - Within 6 to 12 hours from onset of symptoms to initiation of treatment (i.e. groin puncture), *selected* patients may be treated if they meet clinical and imaging criteria, and based on local protocols and available expertise in endovascular therapy. This criterion is based on limited evidence from one randomized controlled trial (ESCAPE).