



Supplementary Fig. 2. Baseline disease severity. Boxplots with individual data points for modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score on admission (A) and Hunt-Hess score (B). Sham group had a mean mRS score of 3.4 (standard deviation [SD], 1.2) and a median of 4 (interquartile range [IQR], 2–4), while the transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) group had a mean mRS score of 3.3 (SD, 1.3) and a median of 3 (IQR, 2–4), with $P=0.980$. The sham group had a mean Hunt Hess score of 3.5 (SD, 0.5) and a median of 4 (IQR, 3–4), while the taVNS group had a mean of 3.3 (SD, 0.5) and a median of 3 (IQR, 3–4), with $P=0.554$. Histograms of score distributions confirm visual balance between groups: mRS score on admission (C) and Hunt-Hess score (D).