



A stroke happens when blood stops flowing to part of the brain. A lack of blood flow causes damage to brain cells. The impact of stroke depends on the type of stroke, the location and the amount of damage. A stroke occurs suddenly and can significantly affect a person's function. Stroke care is different for each person.

Types of Stroke

Mild Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA): Blood flow to the brain is temporarily interrupted. Signs and symptoms may last for several minutes to 24 hours and then disappear. Individuals who experience a TIA are more likely to have a stroke. It is important to receive care.

Ischemic Stroke: A blockage or clot in a blood vessel in the brain does not allow blood to pass.

Hemorrhagic Stroke: A blood vessel in the brain suddenly leaks or ruptures and bleeds.

The right treatment

There are many factors that must be considered. Your physician will ask questions and request tests.

Questions you may be asked

- What time did the patient's symptoms started or the time they were last known to be well?
- Current list of medications.
- Allergies to any medication(s)?
- Allergies to iodine-based dye, called contrast, which is used in CT scans?
- Is the patient on blood-thinners, including aspirin?
- Any major medical problems of concern?
- Patient history of trauma, heart disease, or recent surgeries?

Healthcare Team Support

Let the healthcare team know if you have any concerns or questions. We are here to help.

About Stroke Care

For more detailed information, you may want to review the HPHA Stroke website. Use the camera on your phone to scan the code below or visit our website at www.hpha.ca/stroke



If you prefer a printed copy of resources, please ask your nurse.

See next page...

Common tests

- **CTA (computed tomography angiogram) Scan:** A type of specialized x-ray to help see inside the brain or body. Looks at the blood vessels and blood flow in the brain.
- **Blood Draw:** A needle is used to take blood from a vein. The laboratory completes tests to inform your treatment.

The stroke care team will determine:

- The type of stroke
- Treatment recommendations, which may include medication or surgery
- Follow-up treatment

Medication

Thrombolysis is a procedure to dissolve clots. The medication, Tenecteplase, is given through intravenous (IV) therapy. A small tube is placed into a vein. The goal is for the medication to break up the clot, allow the blood supply to return and to limit disability.

Your physician will help you and your family/caregiver to decide if medication is an option. Tenecteplase can be utilized within the first 4.5 hours of new symptoms of stroke.

Surgery

If the stroke caused by a blockage in a large vessel in the brain, endovascular therapy (EVT) may be an appropriate treatment option. EVT is a procedure to remove the blood clot. Patients must transfer to a Regional Stroke Centre, such as London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) – University Hospital.

If the stroke is caused by bleeding in the brain, other procedures or surgeries may be required.

Possible next steps

- Admission to **HPHA Stratford General Hospital** (519) 272-8210
 - Intensive Care Unit
 - Integrated Stroke Unit
- Admission to **LHSC – University Hospital** (519) 685-8500
- Referral to the **Secondary Stroke Prevention Clinic** and follow-up tests (519) 272-8210 ext. 2299
- Referral to the **Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team** (519) 527-8425

Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network (SWOSN)

HPHA Stratford General Hospital is the District Stroke Centre for Huron and Perth counties. The following services are on-site:

- Acute Stroke Unit
- Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation
- Secondary Stroke Prevention Clinic

HHS Alexandra Marine & General Hospital is a Telestroke Site that supports hyperacute assessment and treatment of stroke.

London Health Sciences Centre – University Hospital is the Regional Stroke Centre for the SWOSN.

Learn more: www.swostroke.ca