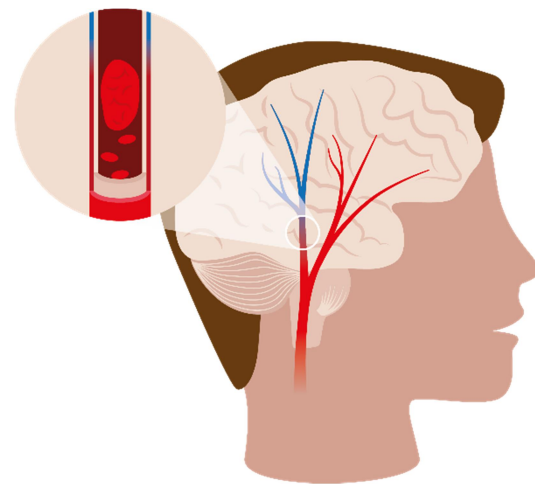


THROMBOLYSIS | Treatment used to unclog a blocked artery after an ischemic stroke

An ischemic stroke (cerebrovascular accident) is caused by the obstruction of blood flow in the brain. **A stroke occurs when a blood clot blocks a blood vessel.** The obstruction affects oxygen and nutrient intake, which can damage brain cells. Stroke sequelae depend on the part of the brain area affected and on the extent of the damage.

Rapid intervention is required to re-establish blood flow to the brain as quickly as possible to preserve normal brain function and to limit potentially severe outcomes.

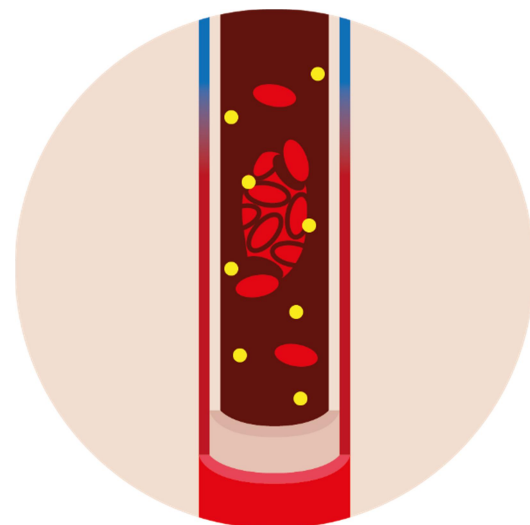


WHAT IS THROMBOLYSIS?

Thrombolysis is a medical procedure in which a clot-dissolving medication is injected intravenously.

RAPID TREATMENT REQUIRED

Thrombolysis medication helps to unclog the obstructed artery. It must be **administered within 4.5 hours after the onset of the first signs and symptoms.** The goal of the medication is to reduce the severity of the stroke and to eliminate some of its effects.



THROMBOLYSIS TREATMENT

1. Nurses will complete:
 - Blood sampling
 - Weight measurement (to determine precise medication dose to be administered)
 - Electrocardiogram (ECG) to check cardiac activity
 - Capillary blood glucose test to measure blood sugar levels (glycemia)
2. A computed tomography scan (Brain CT scan) will be taken to evaluate the presence and extent of the stroke.
3. Intravenous medication will be administered through a vein in your arm. It might take up to **60 minutes** to administer the medication, depending on which one is used. It is not painful.
4. During the **first 24 hours**, the caregiving team will frequently check both your vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, breathing, temperature, etc.) and your neurological signs (pupillary assessment, limb strength and sensation).
5. A computerized tomography (CT scan) will be taken again to verify the efficacy of the treatment.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN AFTER TREATMENT

You will be sent to intensive care unit.

- You must remain in bed for **24 hours**.
- Notify the nurse rapidly if you experience the following symptoms:
 - Sudden headache
 - Difficulty breathing or swallowing
 - Feeling/Sensation that the lips, tongue, or swelling of the back of the throat
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Bleeding

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Please speak to your attending physician or to your nurse.

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Revision and layout

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