

Stroke Thrombolysis (clot dissolving drug)

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Thrombolysis in Stroke

You have been diagnosed by the medical team as having an Ischaemic Stroke. This means part of your brain is not working as it should. This is caused by a blood clot blocking a blood vessel in the brain.

Thrombolysis is a treatment we offer. It attempts to unblock the affected blood vessel by dissolving the clot. This should improve the blood flow to that part of the brain and reduce the amount of damage caused.

Thrombolysis needs to be given within 4 hours 30 mins of symptom onset. The sooner it is given, the more effective it will be. Your stroke nurse will tell you what will happen.

The treatment will be given by a Stroke Consultant, Specialist Registrar or Stroke Specialist Nurse. You will be closely monitored during and after the drug is given.

Advantages of Thrombolysis

- For every 100 people treated, 30 achieve a better recovery in 3 months
- For every 9 people treated, one will achieve a full recovery

Disadvantages of Thrombolysis

- It does not work for every patient. In every 100 patients treated, 67 patients outcomes will not be altered.
- It can cause bleeding in other areas of the body.
- For a small number of people it will cause a bleed in the brain. This can cause the stroke to get worse or lead to death. This occurs in 3 patients out of 100 treated.
- If you are of childbearing age, please discuss with the clinician treating you.
- This treatment will only be offered if the treating Consultant feels the benefits are greater than the risks of treatment.
- If you decide not to have this treatment your care will not be affected. You will be given our standard treatment for stroke. This involves admission to the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit and possibly the Rehabilitation Unit. Steps to reduce the risk of further stroke or complications will be put in place.

For further advice and information on your treatment, please discuss with the Stroke Consultant or Stroke Specialist Nurse