

Stroke Thrombolysis – Information Sheet

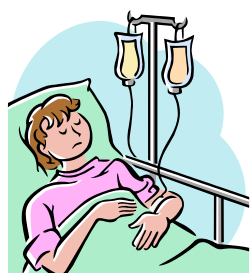
What causes a stroke?



The most common cause of a stroke is a blood clot blocking an artery in the brain. This prevents the blood from taking important oxygen to part of the brain and causes damage to brain cells.

Patients with this type of stroke may benefit from a treatment called thrombolysis.

What is thrombolysis?



Thrombolysis works by dissolving the clot that has blocked the artery and stopped the supply of blood to part of the brain.

The drug is called rt-PA and is given through a drip over one hour.



The drug works best if given to a patient within four and a half hours of their stroke.

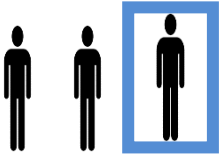
What are the benefits?



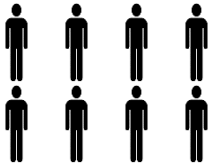
By treating a patient with thrombolysis there is a 55% increase in their chance of achieving a full recovery.

10x

The treatment is 10 times more likely to help than to harm the patient.



For every 3 people treated, 1 person achieves a **better** recovery.



For every 9 people treated, 1 person achieves a **full** recovery.

What are the risks?



As the clot busting drug works by making blood thinner, there is a small chance that a patient may suffer bleeding in part of their body.

This may be minor, such as increased bruising, or severe such as bleeding within the brain, which could make a patient much worse.

What happens immediately afterwards?



For 24 hours after thrombolysis medical staff perform frequent assessments to make sure that any complications can be dealt with straight away.

They will be looking for signs that the patient may be restless, confused, nauseous or complaining of a headache.



Feel free to speak to any member of staff.

Patient Experience

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

Feedback

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

How to contact PALS:

Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Opening times:

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.

For additional medical advice, if your symptoms or condition worsens:

Contact your GP

NHS 111:

Get help with your symptoms, NHS111:

Information to help you manage your health:

Telephone 111

<https://111.nhs.uk/>

www.nhs.uk

In an emergency telephone 999

Emergency Department (A&E)
Alexandra Hospital
Woodrow Drive
Redditch B98 7UB

Minor Injury Unit
Kidderminster Hospital
Bewdley Road
Kidderminster DY11 6RJ

Emergency Department (A&E)
Worcestershire Royal Hospital
Charles Hastings Way
Worcester WR5 1DD

Tel: 01527 512030

Tel: 01562 513039

Tel: 01905 760743