

Stroke Thrombolysis – Information Sheet

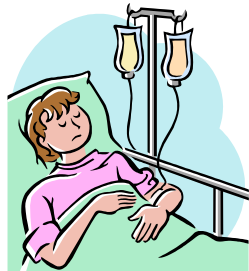
What causes a stroke?



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 three hours of their stroke.

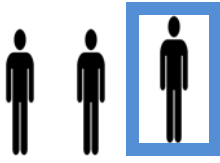
What are the benefits?



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.