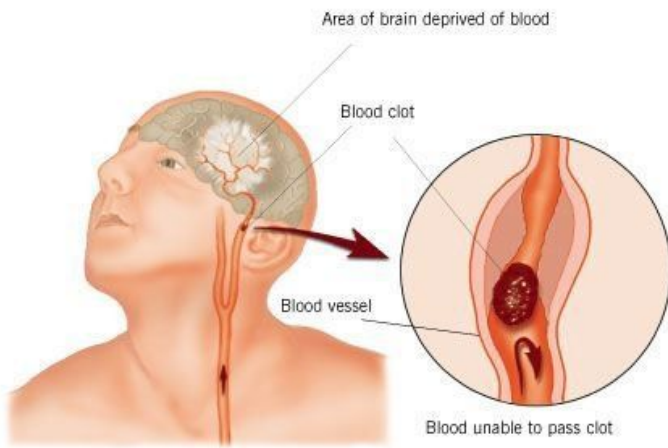


# Stroke and Mechanical Thrombectomy



## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

An ischemic stroke is damage to the brain tissue that happens when your blood does not flow to your brain like normal, most commonly caused by a blood clot. We use mechanical thrombectomy to treat ischemic stroke. The goal of this procedure is to restore blood flow to the area of the brain that is restricted by the blood clot. By removing the clot, your blood will be able to provide vital oxygen and nutrients to the brain. This will reduce the amount of brain tissue that is affected by the stroke.

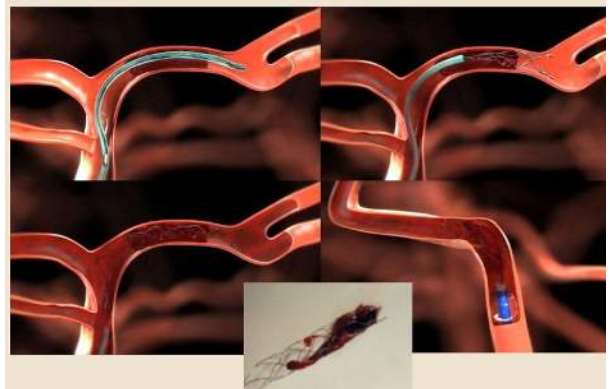
## WHAT SHOULD YOU TELL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:

- Any allergies
- All medications, including vitamins, herbs, eye drops, and over the counter drugs.
- Any problems with anesthetics, including family problems.
- Any blood disorders, surgeries, or medical conditions.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING A MECHANICAL THROMBECTOMY:

- You will be given IV medications to help you relax and fall asleep. You may also require general anesthesia.
- You will be given a numbing medication in your groin.
- Your vital signs will be monitored continuously.

- A long, thin tube (catheter) will be inserted into an artery in your groin and passed up toward the brain; bypassing the heart.
- A few images will be taken to locate the clot.
- A wire-like basket will be extended from the catheter to the clot (see picture). A suction device may also be used to remove the clot.
- The catheter will then be removed, and a small bandage will be placed over the insertion site.
- This may take up to 3 hours.



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE:

- You will be transferred to a critical care unit where your heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels, and brain function will be monitored carefully.
- You will be given IV fluids and other medications that may prevent another blood clot.
- You will have follow-up imaging done such as a CT scan or an MRI.
- The source of the blood clot will need to be identified. This may require further testing such as blood work, echocardiogram, and carotid ultrasound. This will be at the discretion of your healthcare provider.
- You will be required to lie flat for 2-6 hours to protect the artery in your groin.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

Although this procedure is generally safe, it does have some risks.

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Allergic reactions to dye or other medicines
- Damage to other structures or vessels
- Rupture of blood vessels containing the clot
- Recurrence or worsening of the stroke



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