

# Thrombolysis- a clot busting treatment for Ischaemic Stroke

Stroke Unit

An ischaemic stroke is caused by a blood clot blocking one of the arteries in the brain and this may result in a disabling stroke unless the blood circulation in the brain is restored. Thrombolysis is the name used to describe the treatment of using a blood thinning medication to try to dissolve the blood clot. It must be started within 4.5hrs of onset of stroke symptoms.

## What is thrombolysis and how does it work?

- The drug of choice tends to be Alteplase although research into other drugs is still ongoing
- Alteplase dissolves the blood clots and aims to restore blood circulation in the brain
- Blood clots can vary in size and composition so this means that thrombolysis treatment may not always be successful
- Thrombolysis will improve your chances of improving return of blood flow to the blocked blood vessel but does not guarantee return of blood flow to the blocked blood vessel.

## How is the treatment given?

- Thrombolysis is given via a 'drip' liquid infusion into a vein over one hour
- You will be closely monitored for 2-3 hours afterwards
- You will be on bedrest for 12 hours after treatment
- You will also have a repeat brain scan 22-36 hours afterwards.

## Are there any side effects?

- All medications have possible side effects
- Possible side effects from thrombolysis include; bleeding and allergic reaction.

## What are the benefits?

- The aim is to restore blood flow to the brain
- This may improve recovery
- This may improve quality of life
- This may reduce the rate of long term dependency
- This may reduce the risk of death from the complications of this stroke.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Potential risks or complications?

- It may not be successful with none or only partial blood flow being restored
- Possible damage to the blood vessels
- Possible risk of internal bleeding.

**This document was written to help explain this treatment, please be aware in an emergency healthcare professionals may give treatment immediately when it is in your best interests.**

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。