

Know Stroke

# Assessment & Treatment

## Disrupt stroke with immediate treatment

Although stroke is an attack on the brain, it can affect the entire body — causing everything from severe speech problems to paralysis. The effects of stroke range from mild to severe.

### The types and degrees of disability depend on which area of the brain is damaged, and can include:

- Paralysis or motion control problems
- Changes in vision, hearing, and other senses
- Difficulty speaking or understanding language
- Trouble remembering and thinking

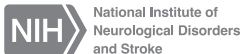
## Stroke Treatment Can't Wait



**2 million** brain cells die every minute during stroke, increasing the risk of permanent brain damage, disability, or death.

**Getting to a hospital** quickly saves lives and increases the chances of successful recovery.

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## The NIH Stroke Scale

The NIH Stroke Scale helps doctors assess the severity of a stroke. Healthcare providers use the Stroke Scale to measure neurological function and deficits by asking the person to answer questions and perform several physical and mental tests.

## How is a stroke treated?

Ischemic stroke, the most common type, can be treated with the medication t-PA, which dissolves blood clots obstructing blood flow to the brain. The window of opportunity to start treatment is four and a half hours, but patients need to get to the hospital quickly to be evaluated and receive treatment.



A five-year study by NINDS found that some stroke patients who received t-PA within three hours of the start of stroke symptoms were at least 30 percent more likely to recover with little or no disability after three months.

