

## **Mechanical Thrombectomy (Clot Retrieval)**

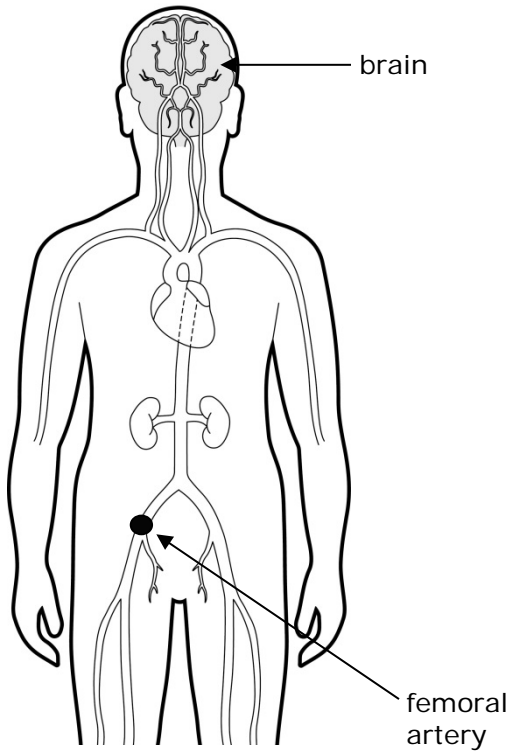
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Your family member has had a stroke caused by a blockage of blood flow to the brain. This type of stroke is called an ischemic stroke.

Treatments that are being considered:

- A medication called tPA (tissue plasminogen activator). This medication helps to dissolve or break down the clot and restore blood flow to the brain. It is given through an intravenous (IV), a thin tube that is inserted into a vein in the arm. Some patients are not eligible to receive tPA because of medical conditions or medicines taken.
  - Thrombectomy (throm-bec-to-me) – a procedure to remove the blood clot. To determine if your family member is eligible for this procedure, he or she will have special imaging called a CTA (computed tomography angiogram) to look at blood vessels and blood flow in the brain.
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### How is a thrombectomy done?



A small thin tube, called a sheath, is inserted in the femoral artery in the right groin area.

<p>blood clot</p> <p>guide wire</p> <p>catheter</p> <p>This diagram shows a cross-section of a blood vessel with a blood clot. A guide wire is inserted through the clot, and a catheter is inserted through the sheath into the femoral artery, passing through the clot.</p>	<p>A guide wire and catheter are inserted through the sheath into the femoral artery and passed to the artery with the clot in the brain.</p>
<p>blood clot</p> <p>Compressed mesh stent inside catheter</p> <p>This diagram shows the compressed mesh stent being inserted into the catheter. The stent is a small, compressed mesh structure.</p>	<p>The guide wire is removed and a compressed mesh stent is inserted through the catheter to the clot.</p>
<p>blood clot</p> <p>Expanded mesh stent</p> <p>This diagram shows the expanded mesh stent trapping the blood clot. The stent has expanded to fill the space of the clot, trapping it.</p>	<p>The catheter is then pulled back causing the mesh stent to expand through the clot. Once the clot is “trapped” in the stent, the clot can be safely removed with the stent.</p>

## Preparing for the thrombectomy

- Your family member will be taken to the Interventional Suite in Diagnostic Imaging, located on the Main Floor. He or she may have other imaging tests done when they arrive in Diagnostic Imaging before the procedure is started.
- You will meet the doctor doing the procedure, who will answer any questions and ask for consent for the procedure.
- During the procedure family can wait in the Operating Room/ Heart Investigation Unit waiting area located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

## During the procedure

- During the procedure the Interventional Health Care team will be with your family member. The team will consist of a Neurointerventional Doctor, Registered Nurses and a Medical Radiation Technologist.
- Your family member may have a urinary catheter put in place.
- The hair in the groin area may be removed with a clipper.
- Blood pressure, heart rate, breathing, and comfort level will be continuously monitored.
- The room may be cold and there may be some discomfort during the procedure. Your family member may receive medication through the intravenous (IV) line which will help to relax them and make them feel comfortable.
- The procedure takes about 1 to 2 hours.
- A small bandage will be placed on the groin puncture site after the sheath is removed at the end of the procedure.

## After the procedure

- Your family member will be moved to 7 West, Step Down Unit, where they will be closely monitored.
- Family can visit on 7 West.
- The doctor will provide an update to the family.
- Your family member will need to lie flat and keep their leg straight for to **4 to 6 hours** after the sheath is removed from the groin.  
For comfort he or she:
  - may turn from side to side with help,
  - wiggle their toes,
  - bend the leg that was **NOT** used for the procedure,
  - will have the head of their bed raised slightly and have pain medication if needed.
- Blood pressure, heart rate, breathing, and comfort level will be monitored.
- The groin area will be monitored for bleeding and swelling.
- The legs and feet will be monitored for blood flow and circulation.

Tell the nurse right away if you notice warmth or dampness or bleeding around the bandage in the groin.

- Your family member will not be able to drink for a period of time after the procedure. He or she will have an intravenous (IV) for fluids, which will also flush the x-ray contrast dye from the body.
- Your family member will stay in the Step Down Unit for a period of time before being moved to the Stroke Unit on 7 South.
- Your family member will be transferred back to their local stroke centre within 24 to 48 hours after the procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to any member of your health care team.

