

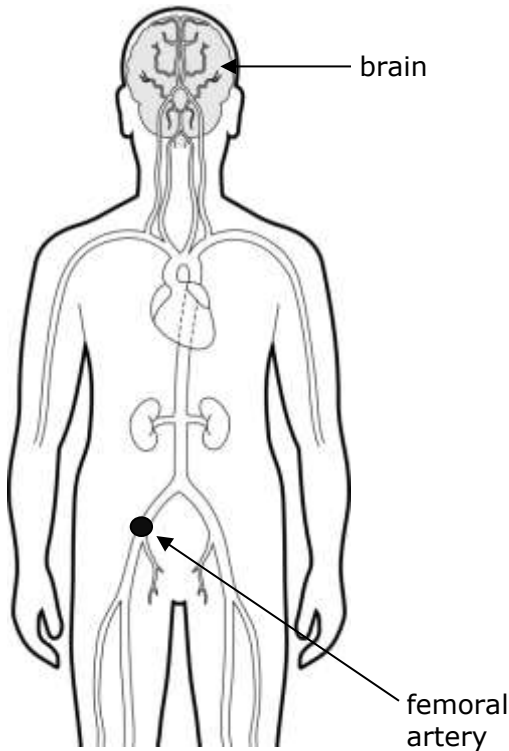
Mechanical Thrombectomy (Clot Retrieval)

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 groin area.

<p>A cross-sectional diagram of an artery. A thick, dark, curved mass labeled 'blood clot' is partially inside the artery. A thin, curved line labeled 'guide wire' is inserted into the clot. A larger, curved tube labeled 'catheter' is also inserted into the clot, surrounding the guide wire.</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>A cross-sectional diagram of an artery. The 'blood clot' is still present. The 'guide wire' has been removed. A mesh-like structure labeled 'Compressed mesh stent inside catheter' is now inside the 'catheter'.</p>	<p>The guide wire is removed and a compressed mesh stent is inserted through the catheter to the clot.</p>
<p>A cross-sectional diagram of an artery. The 'blood clot' is now completely surrounded by the 'Expanded mesh stent'. The catheter is being pulled back, leaving the stent in place.</p>	<p>The catheter is 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 _____, located on the _____.
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 waiting area located in the _____.

During the procedure

- During the procedure the _____ team will be with your family member. The team will consist of doctors, nurses and technologists.
- 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 _____, where they will be closely monitored.
- Family can visit on _____
- The doctor will provide an update to the family.
- Your family member will need to lie flat and keep their leg straight for _____ 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 help to flush the x-ray contrast dye from the body.
- Your family member will stay in the _____ for a period of time before being moved to the _____.
- 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.