



tPA (Clotbuster) for Ischemic Stroke

What is an Ischemic Stroke?

An ischemic stroke is an injury to a part of the brain caused by a blood clot.

If you have this type of stroke, you may be offered the clotbuster (tPA) or other treatments with the intention of restoring blood flow.

What is tPA (tissue plasminogen activator)?

- tPA is a medication that breaks up some blood clots, allowing blood supply to return to the brain.
- tPA is given to you through small tube into your vein (an IV).

Who may be eligible for tPA?

- Patients who are having a stroke caused by a blood clot (confirmed by a CT scan).
- Treatment must be started within 4.5 hours from the start of symptoms.
- When all your tests are completed, the doctor will speak to you and your family to let them know if this medication is an option for you.

What are the benefits?

- Patients receiving tPA have a 30% decrease in disability or death.

What are the risks?

- Patients who receive tPA have a higher risk of bleeding into the brain (6 out of 100 patients).
- Bleeding into the brain may cause stroke symptoms to get worse or may result in death.
- tPA may also cause bleeding in other areas of the body.

Decision making

- If you choose not to have treatment with tPA, your care will not be affected and you will start receiving appropriate care for a stroke.
- If you have any questions about tPA or other treatments for stroke, please talk to your doctor or any member of your health care team.



CENTRAL EAST
STROKE NETWORK
www.cesnstroke.ca
DURHAM DISTRICT