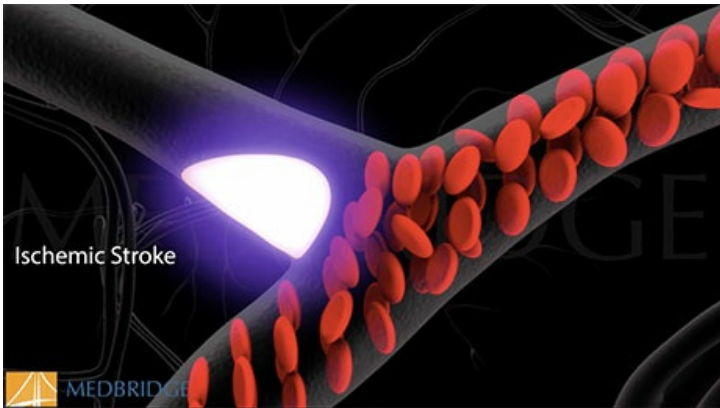


UNDERSTANDING YOUR CONDITION: Stroke



Ischemic Stroke: Blockage in Blood Vessel



Hemorrhagic Stroke: Ruptured Blood Vessel



A Stroke is Caused by an Interrupted Blood Flow to the Brain

A stroke occurs when the body's rich blood flow to the brain is interrupted, causing injury to the sensitive brain tissue. There are two major types of stroke: ischemic and hemorrhagic. Ischemic stroke refers to a blockage in the artery caused by a blood clot, or a build-up of plaque or fatty deposits. The clot can form within the vessel that is blocked, known as a cerebral thrombosis, or the clot can form in another part of the body such as the heart, then travel to the brain. This is called a cerebral embolism. This blockage limits the needed flow of oxygen and leads to the death of brain tissue. A hemorrhagic stroke refers to a blood vessel that breaks, leaking blood into the brain.

The effects of a stroke depend on what part of the brain is injured and to what extent the tissues are damaged. Lasting effects of a stroke can include weakness, difficulty walking, communicating, swallowing, and confusion. Brain health and recovery following a stroke depends upon early recognition and medical intervention.

The American Stroke Association recommends knowing the warning signs and symptoms of a stroke. The signs of a stroke include drooping face, inability to raise both arms to the same height, and slurred or altered speech. Getting an individual having a stroke to the hospital as soon as possible offers them the best chance at recovery.

If you or a loved one experiences these symptoms, call 911 immediately.