

Stroke Definitions

HEMORRHAGIC STROKE

The least common of the two types of stroke Hemorrhagic Strokes are the most often to result in death. It is when a weak blood vessel leaks or brain aneurysm burst.

ISCHEMIC STROKE

When a blockage occurs in a blood vessel carrying blood to the brain by a blood clot (ischemic) it is a Ischemic Stroke. This type of blockage causes blood not to reach the brain. The most important risk factor for this type of stroke is high blood pressure. Nearly 87% of strokes are Ischemic strokes. An ischemic stroke can occur in two ways.

EMBOLIC STROKE

Embolic stroke deriving from the word embolus. Embolus is a type of blood clot or plaque fragment that forms somewhere in the body and travels to the brain. The small vessels in the brain is where its travel through the vessels stops when its passage becomes lodged. This blocking of the blood vessel in the brain is what causes the stroke. People with atrial fibrillation (Afib) account for about 15% of embolic strokes.

THROMBOTIC STROKE

A thrombotic stroke is result of a blood clot that forms inside one of the arteries that supplies blood to the brain. People with atherosclerosis and high cholesterol levels are usually the population where this type of stroke is most seen. There are two types of blood clots that can cause a thrombotic stroke. One type being large vessel thrombosis and the other small vessel disease.

Large Vessel Thrombosis

Large vessel thrombosis is the most common form of thrombotic stroke and occurs in the brain's larger arteries. Most often caused by long-term atherosclerosis in combination with rapid blood clot formation. A common risk factor for large vessel thrombosis is high cholesterol.

Small Vessel Disease

When blood flow is blocked to a very small arterial vessel it is known as small vessel disease. There is little known about the potential causes of this type of stroke. It has been found to be closely linked to high blood pressure.