

# What is a Stroke?

Strokes are often referred to as "brain attacks". They are not prejudice and can happen to anyone at any time in their life. A stroke occurs in two main ways. Blood flow to the brain is either blocked by a clot or a vessel ruptures. That part of the brain cannot get the blood it needs. When blood flow is cut off to an area of brain is a Stroke. Brain cells are deprived of oxygen and begin to die as soon as the blood flow is cut off. Where in the brain the cut off occurs is where brain cells die and abilities controlled by that area of the brain are lost. These losses can range from muscle control to memory loss. The level of impact greatly depends on the area of the brain the damage occurred and how vast the damage was.

An example of this is when, someone who had a large stroke may lose their ability to speak or become permanently paralyzed on one side of their body. While someone may have minor problems such as temporary weakness of an leg or arm if they had a smaller stroke. While some people recover completely from strokes more than 2/3 of survivors have some type of disability.