

Intracranial Mechanical Thrombectomy

A procedure to remove a blood clot in your brain

General Information

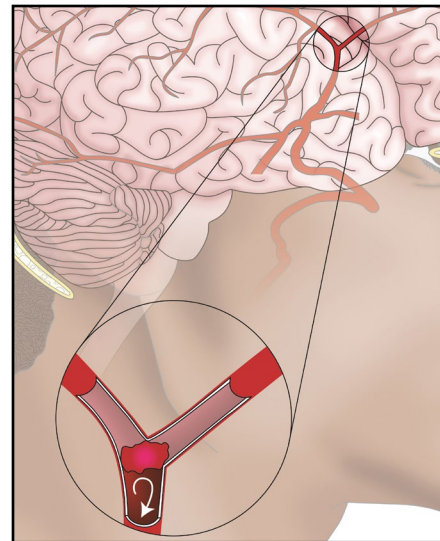
Your doctor removed a blood clot blocking a large artery in your brain.

The clot may have started in your brain or traveled to your brain from another part of your body. The clot stops or limits blood flow, which could cause a stroke.

Before the procedure, you may have received a medicine called alteplase, also known as t-PA. It helps dissolve the blood clot.

During the Procedure

- The nurse started an intravenous (IV) line in your hand or arm. You received a medicine to help you relax through the IV.
- The doctor numbed the insertion site in your groin with medicine. He or she inserted a long, narrow tube (catheter) through a large artery in your groin and guided it to the blood clot.
- You received contrast that showed your brain's blood vessels on an X-ray.
- The doctor inserted a device through the catheter to break up and remove the blood clot.



A blood clot prevents blood from moving through your artery. It can cause a stroke. A special device removed the clot to open the blood vessel and restore normal blood flow.

© Allina Health System

After the Procedure

- The catheter and device were removed from your groin.
- Nurses will check your insertion site, blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and comfort level often.
- They will check the circulation below your insertion site by touching the pulses in your feet.
- Your insertion site may feel tender or sore. This is normal. (It will feel better over the next few days.)
- You will receive fluids through the IV to help flush contrast from your kidneys. (The IV will be removed right before you go home.)

(over)

- You will need to stay in bed until your provider says it is OK to move around.
- For your comfort you:
 - may turn from side to side with help
 - may wiggle your toes
 - may bend your arms and legs that were not used for the procedure
 - will have pain medicine (if needed)
 - may ask your nurse to raise the head of your bed slightly.
- Follow the directions in your After Visit Summary.

What To Expect At Home

- You may have a bruise, nickel-sized lump or both at the insertion site. This is common.
 - The bruising may get bigger.
 - It may take 2 to 3 weeks for the bruise to go away.
- In the first 5 to 7 days after the procedure:
 - Do not lift anything heavier than 5 to 10 pounds.
 - Avoid bending over and squatting.
 - Avoid heavy activities, such as biking, bowling, jogging, sexual activity, shoveling, mowing or swimming.
 - Follow your health care provider’s directions for walking and exercising.
 - Apply pressure slightly above the insertion site if you cough or sneeze.
 - Check your insertion site each day for:
 - increased pain or swelling
 - signs of infection (including increased redness, warmth, tenderness, bleeding or oozing).
- Keep all follow-up appointments, even if you feel better.







When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you have any of the following:

- increased pain or swelling at your insertion site
- signs of infection:
 - increased redness
 - warmth
 - tenderness
 - bleeding or oozing.
- fever higher than 100.4 F.

When To Call 911

Call 911 if you have any of the signs or symptoms below.

	B	Balance – Sudden difficulty with balance
	E	Eyes – Sudden problems with vision in one or both eyes
	F	Face – Face or smile droops on one side
	A	Arms – Sudden weakness in arm or leg
	S	Speech – Unable to repeat a simple sentence, or slurred words
	T	Time – If you observe any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately

BE FAST was developed by Intermountain Healthcare, as an adaptation of the FAST model implemented by the American Stroke Association. Reproduced with permission from Intermountain Healthcare. Copyright 2011, Intermountain Health Care.