

CLOT-BUSTING TREATMENT FOR ACUTE STROKE PATIENT INFORMATION

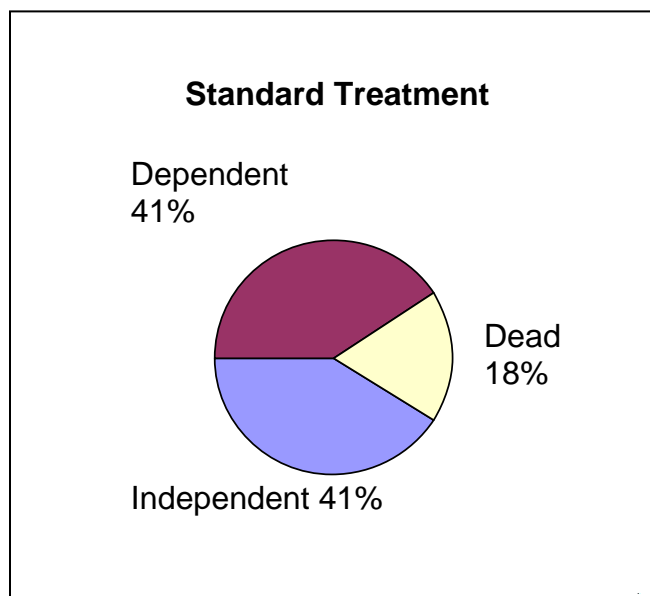
You/your relative has had a **stroke** because an artery supplying blood to the brain has been **suddenly blocked** by a clot.

The best treatment at present is to try unblocking this artery by injecting a “clot-busting” drug called **Alteplase**. The medical term for “clot-busting” is **thrombolysis**.

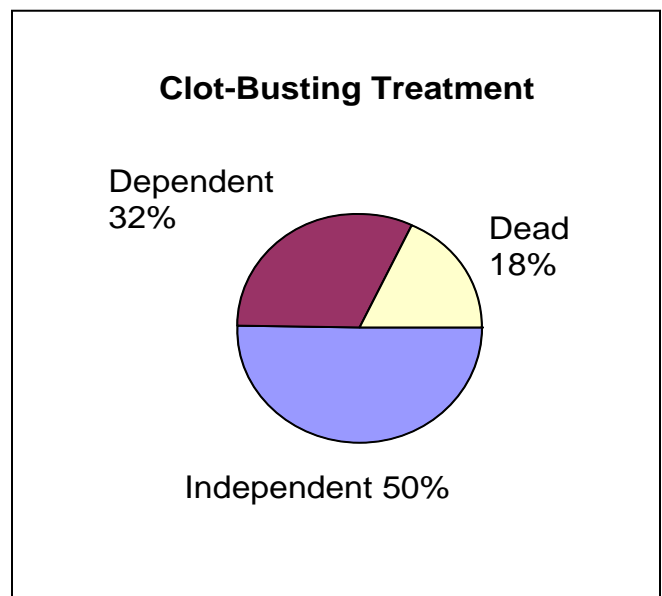
The injection must be started **within 4½ hours** of the start of the stroke (for some groups this is limited to **within 3 hours**). Giving the treatment as soon as possible increases the chance of a good recovery and reduces the risk of problems because of the treatment.

This treatment gives a better chance of recovering fully from a stroke.

Standard



Clot-Buster



Above graphs are for treatment started within 3 hours of the start of stroke symptoms

A patient has a 1 in 10 greater chance of living independently after treatment with the clot busting drug. (50% compared to 41%)

There is a higher chance of bleeding into the brain (1 in 20 with clot-busting compared to 1 in 100 without) or bleeding elsewhere immediately after the injection and a small risk of allergic reaction.

But, overall, patients are more likely to benefit from Alteplase than come to harm.