Stroke

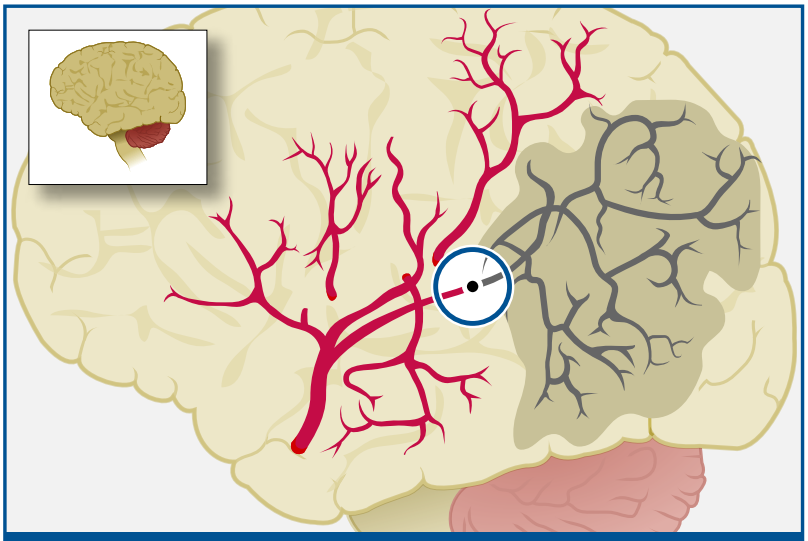
neuropartners
Care & specialist support for you & your family

A stroke is caused by an interruption of the blood supply to any part of the brain because a blood vessel in the brain is blocked or bursts open. If blood flow is stopped for longer than a few seconds, the brain cannot get blood and oxygen, brain cells can die, causing permanent damage.

There are two major types of stroke: ischaemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke.

Ischaemic stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries blood to the brain is blocked. There are several possible causes:

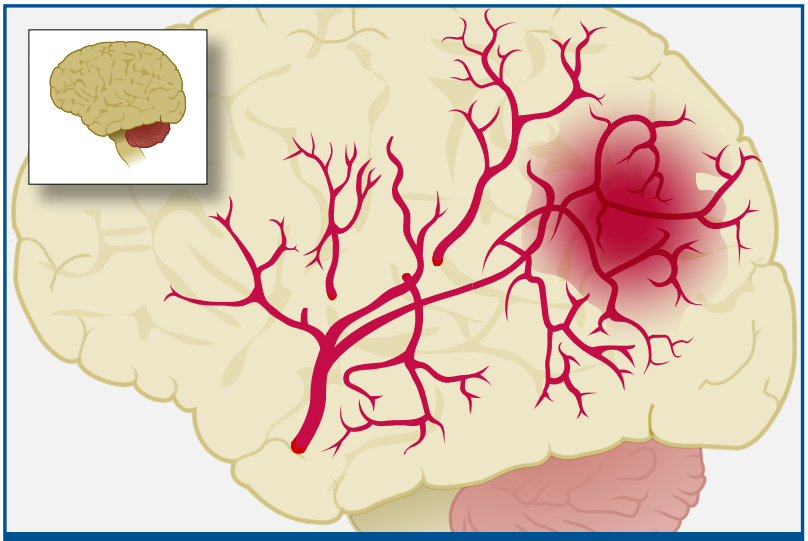
- a blood clot may form in a main artery to the brain which is already very narrow
- a clot may break off from another place in the blood vessels of the brain, or some other part of the body, and travel up to the brain to block a smaller artery
- there is a blockage in the tiny bloody vessels deep inside the brain.



Clot stops blood supply to an area of the brain

Haemorrhagic stroke occurs when a blood vessel in part of the brain becomes weak and bursts open, causing blood to leak into the brain (a haemorrhage). Haemorrhagic strokes are grouped according to location of the blood vessel:

- *Intracerebral haemorrhage:* Bleeding in the brain
- *Subarachnoid haemorrhage:* Bleeding in the area between the brain and the thin tissues that cover the brain



Haemorrhage/blood leaks into brain tissue

TIA or mini-stroke

A transient ischaemic attack (TIA) occurs because of a temporary blockage in the blood supply to the brain and a person will experience stroke symptoms for a short time. It is sometimes called a mini-stroke, however, there is a risk of a more serious stroke in future and, as with all stroke, medical advice should be sought without delay.

For more information about stroke you may wish to visit the Stroke Association's website, www.stroke.org.uk