

# Stroke

## Definition:

A stroke occurs when blood stops flowing to a part of the brain due to a clot or rupture of a blood vessel.

1. **Ischemic = Clot**  
(Makes up approximately 87 % of all strokes)
2. **Hemorrhagic = Bleed**  
Bleeding around brain  
Bleeding into brain

## Symptoms:

- Sudden and severe headache
- Trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking
- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm, or leg

## Treatment for a stroke:

- If you observe any of the above symptoms, send the patient to the nearest ER. Every minute matters.
- Do not wait until the symptoms disappear.
- Do not take aspirin because you don't know the type of the stroke; this will be given later if needed.
- Use the FAST (Face-Arm-Speech-Test) guide if you suspect a person is having a stroke:
  - F – Facial Drooping: the person is unable to smile, and their eyes and/or mouth are droopy.
  - A – Arm drift: the person is only able to elevate one arm.
  - S – Slurred speech: the person is unable to speak clearly.
  - T – Time to send the patient to the nearest ER.