



Think F.A.S.T.

If you witness a possible stroke, use the following tips from the National Stroke Association – the F.A.S.T. approach – to respond to the crisis:

F = Face – Ask a person to smile, and observe him/her to see if one side of the face droops.

A = Arm – Ask the person to raise both arms. Notice if one arm drifts downward.

S = Speech – Listen to the person's speech pattern. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

T = Time – If you observe any of these signs,

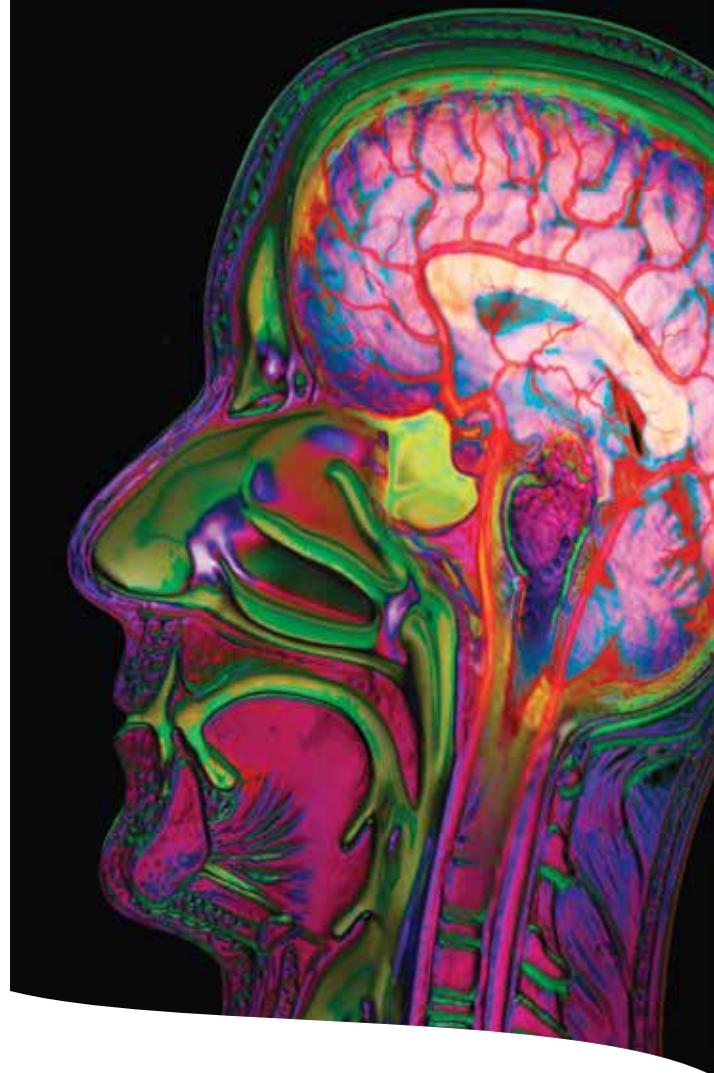


CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM



805 Pamplico Highway
Florence, SC 29505
843-674-5000
Carolinashospital.com

Stroke Services Think F.A.S.T.



CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Carolinashospital.com



Why Carolinas Hospital System

When a stroke occurs, every minute counts. Carolinas Hospital System has a specially trained multidisciplinary team that consists of ED physicians, nurses with advance training in stroke, and therapy services for rehabilitation. The hospital offers a broad range of diagnostic capabilities, including neuro-imaging (CT and MRI) lab and pharmacy services.

What is a stroke?

Strokes don't affect just the ill or elderly – they can happen to anyone, at any time. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and the No. 1 cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States – and more than 75 percent of strokes are preventable, according to the National Stroke Association.

A stroke is a vascular crisis or a “brain attack” in which a blood vessel in the brain breaks or a blood clot blocks the flow of blood to the brain – both causing brain damage. A stroke victim's speech, movement and memory can be permanently affected. With immediate medical attention, the effects of a stroke can often be minimized.

When a stroke occurs, every minute counts. Carolinas Hospital System's acute stroke team is available to provide prompt emergency care – key to a successful patient recovery.

Know the signs

Signs of a possible stroke include:

- Sudden numbness, weakness, or paralysis of the face or on one side of the body
- Unexplained dizziness and/or loss of balance
- Sudden severe headache
- Sudden loss of vision
- Difficulty swallowing
- Confusion or difficulty speaking/ understanding



Learn your risk

Your medical history and lifestyle choices can affect your likelihood of suffering a stroke. If you have one of the following risk factors, talk with a medical professional about how to minimize your risk:

- Age (over 55)
- Family history of stroke
- Diabetes
- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- Abnormal heart rhythm/condition
- Heart disease
- High cholesterol
- High red blood cell count
- African American descent
- Hispanic/Latino descent
- Previous “mini-strokes,” also called transient ischemic attacks (TIAs)

It is vital that a patient who suffers a “brain attack” receive specialized care, which may include thrombolytic therapy, within the first 3 hours of a stroke.