



STROKE

What is stroke?

The millions of neurons within the brain require a steady blood supply to provide oxygen, sugars and other essential nutrients. Strokes occur when this blood flow is interrupted. In the majority of cases this occurs when the arteries that carry blood to the brain become blocked by a blood clot (ischemic stroke), though strokes can also result from ruptured arteries (haemorrhagic stroke).

Without their supply of oxygen and nutrients, neurons die, causing damage to the brain. Depending on the severity of the stroke, this damage can be permanent. In other cases, the damage to the brain tissue is reversible.

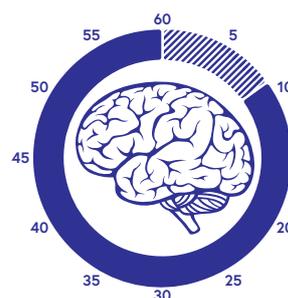
Strokes can lead to a loss of feeling or inability to move on one side of the body, dizziness, headache, loss of vision in one eye and difficulty speaking or understanding.

The symptoms and effects of stroke depend upon where in the brain the damage occurs. Damage to the right side of the brain usually affects the left side of the body, and vice versa. Other effects of damage to the right side of the brain include

impairment of spatial and perceptual abilities, memory, and judgement, with people often exhibiting impulsive behaviour. Damage to the left side of the brain can also result in speech and language difficulties, memory loss and development of slow, cautious behaviour that can make it hard to complete tasks unaided.

Damage to the cerebellum region can result in difficulties with balance, reflexes, coordination, dizziness and nausea. A stroke occurring in the brain stem can have an impact on essential bodily function, including breathing, heartbeat, eye movements, hearing, speech and swallowing, as well as potential paralysis.

In Australia, someone suffers from a stroke every 9 minutes.



EVERY
NINE
MINUTES

