

## What to expect after a Mechanical Thrombectomy Procedure

- You will remain lying flat for 4-6 hours following removal of the sheath and remain in bed for 24 hours
- After 4-6 hours you may turn on your side and bend the leg that was not used in the procedure
- The groin area will be carefully monitored for any signs of bleeding or swelling
- Legs and feet will also be monitored to ensure good blood flow and circulation after the procedure

### Call a nurse if:

- You notice any bleeding, dampness or warmth around the surgery area
- You experience pain

## Discharge and Follow up

- An out-patient appointment and GP letter will be given to you prior to discharge
- GP follow-up will also be necessary
- If you have any concerns you can contact the ward or return to the ED
- **REMEMBER FAST (below)**



*Developed by: Sarah Dillane, Christina Doohan & Cáitríona Dennehy BSc Nursing Interns in collaboration with the Stroke Unit, CUH*

*Date Issued: July 2019*

*The information in this leaflet is correct at time of development*



## Patient/Family Information on a Post Stroke Thrombectomy



## What is a Thrombectomy

A Thrombectomy is an emergency procedure to remove a blood clot from inside an artery or vein.



If you have a stroke caused by a blood clot in your brain, doctors can sometimes do a thrombectomy to remove the clot. The doctor threads a thin hollow tube through an artery in your groin up to your brain to remove the clot.

### Preparing for a Thrombectomy

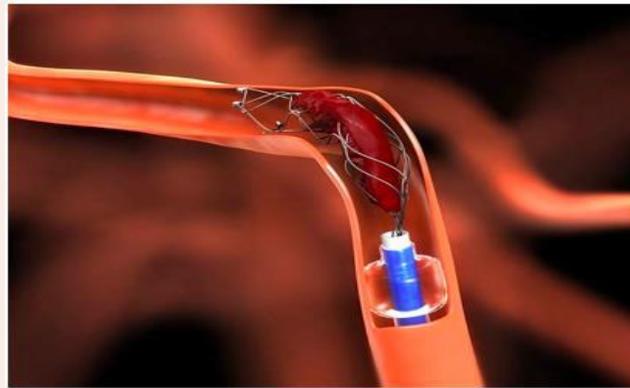
- On arrival, you will be brought to the Radiology Department for a CT scan
- From there, you will be taken to a special x-ray suite called a neuroradiology suite where the procedure is carried out
- Your family members can wait in the waiting room during the procedure
- You will meet the doctor before the procedure, who will answer your questions and ask for you to sign a consent form

- If you are unable to give written consent your family member can do so. It may be carried out in your best interest if no one is available to sign consent



### How is a Thrombectomy performed

- You will either be given anaesthesia to put you to sleep or you will be given sedation, to make you drowsy and relaxed



- A small thin tube called a sheath will be inserted into the artery in the right groin area
- A guide wire and catheter are inserted through the sheath into the artery and passed along to reach the artery with the clot

- The guide wire is removed and a small mesh stent is inserted through the catheter to catch the clot
- The catheter is removed causing the mesh stent to expand through the clot. Once the clot is “trapped” in the stent the clot can be safely removed with the stent
- The procedure takes 1-2 hours

After the procedure, you will be transferred to the Acute Stroke ward where you will be monitored closely for any side effects, also known as risks.

### Risks linked with having a Thrombectomy

**Pain:** You may experience a small amount of discomfort in your groin or head. This can be treated with pain relief if needed

**Other risks:**

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Damage to the blood vessel at the site of the blood clot
- Reaction to the anaesthesia
- Pulmonary embolism (another clot going to the lung)