

## Information Sheet

### Thrombolysis for Stroke

#### What is Thrombolysis?

A clot busting drug called Alteplase is given to try and dissolve the clot (blockage) causing the stroke.

#### Who Receives Thrombolysis?

It is given to patients whose stroke is caused by a clot, who are seen within **4½ hours** of the start of stroke symptoms and who fulfil certain criteria for thrombolysis

#### Does Thrombolysis work?

Yes. An extra 10% of treated patients will have few or no symptoms from their stroke than those who are not treated.

#### Does it have risks?

Yes. The main risk is bleeding. This can occur anywhere in the body, 3-4% of treated patients will have a severe bleed into the brain causing worsening of symptoms and some of these will die. Overall patients that receive the drug tend to be less disabled than those who do not.

As with all drugs there is also a risk of an allergic reaction, this is more common in those taking ACE inhibitors (e.g. Ramipril, Perindopril, Lisinopril).

#### What should I tell the doctor before being given Thrombolysis?

- Any blood thinning agents e.g. Warfarin, Dabigatran, Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Edoxaban
- Recent surgery
- Previous bleeding, particularly in the brain

#### What will happen after the drug is given?

You will be closely monitored for the next 24hours and have a repeat CT scan of your head roughly one day later.

#### Contact Information:

**Heydon Stroke Unit - Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**

