STROKE TREATMENT

Once a stroke has been diagnosed in a patient, treatment is administered as quickly as possible, in order to maximise the chances for survival. In the event of an Ischemic Stroke, the following treatments may be used:

* A drug called tPA is administered to the brain’s blood flow. tPA is a tissue plasminogen activator, which means it is able to dissolve the clot in the brain, and restoring blood flow to the affected part of the brain. If this treatment is administered to the stroke victim within three hours, it can significantly improve the patient’s chances for a recovery.
* Once a patient receives a tPA injection, a further procedure known as mechanical thrombectomy can be performed. In this operation, a catheter is threaded through an artery in the groin, all the way up to the blood clot in the brain. Suction tubes are then used to assist doctors to remove the clot. This treatment must be performed within six hours of the stroke occurring.

In the case of a Hemorrhagic stroke, the following treatments are often used:

* An endovascular procedure, similar to the mechanical thrombectomy is used for hemorrhagic strokes. A catheter is introduced to an artery in the arm or leg, then guided to the brain. A mechanical agent, such as a coil, is then used to prevent any further damage to the brain’s blood supply.
* A surgical treatment is also an option for hemorrhagic strokes. In this operation, surgery is done to stop the bleeding onto the brain. For example, in the case of a ruptured aneurysm, a metal clip is attached to the base of the aneurysm to prevent further damage.

SOURCE:

<http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/Treatment/Stroke-Treatments_UCM_310892_Article.jsp#.V0EcG5F9600>