



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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NEW DISCOVERY IN THE TREATMENT OF STROKE

For the first time, doctors worldwide will have a drug they know is effective for treating strokes, thanks to a group of Hong Kong doctors led by researchers at the Chinese University's Faculty of Medicine.

Stroke is the third most common cause of death in developed countries. It is also the leading cause of disability in adults. Yet, up to now, there has been no evidence that any drug is effective for its treatment.

The majority of strokes are caused by a blockage in the blood supply to the brain by a blood clot. Various treatments have been tried in the past to improve the patient's outcome but all have been proven unsuccessful.

Low-molecular-weight heparin is a new generation of drugs that stop the blood from clotting. It has greater biological activity and a better safety margin than standard heparin. With the participation of four hospitals in Hong Kong, the Chinese University team showed that in patients treated with low-molecular-weight heparin, there was a 30% reduction in the likelihood of death or becoming severely disabled.

The results of this research will benefit patients worldwide and have just been published in one of the world's most prestigious medical journals, *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Publication in this journal further affirms that the quality of clinical research in Hong Kong is among the best of the world.

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