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TYPES OF STROKE AND INVESTIGATION

Stroke is a medical condition that occurs when the blood flow to the brain is disrupted, leading to brain cell death. There are two main types of stroke: ischemic and hemorrhagic.

1. Ischemic stroke: This type of stroke occurs when there is a blockage or clot in a blood vessel that supplies blood to the brain. The blockage can be caused by a blood clot (thrombus) that forms in a blood vessel inside the brain, or it can be caused by a clot that travels to the brain from another part of the body (embolism).

2. Hemorrhagic stroke: This type of stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures or leaks, causing bleeding into the brain tissue or the spaces surrounding the brain. Hemorrhagic stroke can be caused by high blood pressure, trauma, or aneurysms (weak spots in blood vessels).

Common investigations done for a stroke patient include:

1. CT scan or MRI of the brain: These imaging studies are used to determine the type and location of the stroke and the extent of brain damage.

2. Blood tests: Blood tests are done to check for clotting disorders, cholesterol levels, and other factors that may increase the risk of stroke.

3. Carotid ultrasound: This test uses sound waves to create images of the carotid arteries in the neck to check for blockages or narrowing that can lead to stroke.

4. Echocardiogram: This test uses sound waves to create images of the heart to check for blood clots or other problems that may increase the risk of stroke.

5. Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG): This test records the electrical activity of the heart to check for irregular heart rhythms that can increase the risk of stroke.

6. Angiogram: This test involves injecting a contrast dye into the blood vessels to create images of the blood vessels in the brain and check for blockages or other abnormalities.

Treatment for stroke depends on the type and severity of the stroke, as well as the patient's overall health. Early intervention is crucial for successful stroke treatment, so it's important to seek medical attention immediately if you suspect you or someone else is having a stroke.