

Emergency

Stroke

What is a stroke?

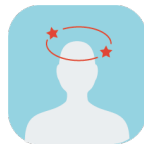
Stroke is a serious complication of sickle cell disease that occurs in 11% of children before the age of 15 if treatment is not started early.

Tips to prevent a stroke:

- We screen all children starting at 2 years of age with a Transcranial Doppler (TCD) ultrasound. TCD results can identify children with an increased risk of stroke so that they can be treated appropriately.
- Early use of hydroxyurea has reduced the risk of stroke.
- Include breaks during physical activity for rest and recovery

Symptoms:

- Severe headaches or slurred speech
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Paralysis or numbness on one side of the body
- Limping not associated with pain



What to do:

- Go to the emergency room immediately.

Treatment:

- Blood transfusion and admission to the hospital for close monitoring.
- For people who have had a stroke already, there is a significant risk of having another stroke. For this reason, it is recommended that patients who have had a stroke receive regular, monthly blood transfusions for the rest of their life to reduce this risk.