



## HOW IS A TIA OR STROKE TREATED?

**Oxygen** – When needed to help you breathe more easily, you may be given oxygen through a plastic mask or through a plastic tube that fits under your nose (nasal cannula).

**Intravenous Access** – A needle may be inserted into a vein to make it easier to give medications. This access to your veins is called an IV.

**Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA)** – This medication is used to dissolve blood clots and can be given intravenously only within 3 hours of the start of symptoms. Although appropriately selected patients may benefit from treatment with tPA, it is not without risk. Some people experience bleeding complications, including bleeding into the brain, which can be life threatening.

**Antiplatelets** – Platelets in the blood have a normal function of helping to form clots to stop bleeding, such as when you have a cut. But with a stroke, clots need to be prevented, so antiplatelet medications may be given to keep the blood flowing. The most commonly used antiplatelet agents are aspirin, clopidogrel bisulfate (Plavix), and aspirin/dipyridamole (Aggrenox). Before antiplatelets are given, your doctor will ask you for information about conditions that might increase your risk of bleeding.

**Surgery or Endovascular Treatment** – In some cases, surgery on the carotid artery in the neck or a procedure that uses catheters within the blood vessels may be required to remove the blood clot directly from an artery.

## PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CARE

As your medical team reviews the information from your tests, they will determine what treatment, or combination of treatments, is best for the type of TIA or stroke you have experienced.

You should discuss all treatment options with your medical team. You need to understand what each test and treatment means for your condition and what the risks and benefits are for each of the proposed treatments. Take the opportunity to ask questions. You may be asked to sign consent forms, or someone who has permission can sign for you.



**WALK** IS THEIR BALANCE OFF?  
**TALK** IS THEIR SPEECH SLURRED OR FACE DROOPY?  
**REACH** IS ONE SIDE WEAK OR NUMB?  
**SEE** IS THEIR VISION ALL OR PARTIALLY LOST?  
**FEEL** IS THEIR HEADACHE SEVERE?

*If any of these stroke symptoms occur suddenly call 9-1-1!*

*For additional information go to: [www.giveme5forstroke.com](http://www.giveme5forstroke.com)*