**Pediatric Stroke at WVU Hospitals**

WVU Children Hospital is the only Pediatric Hospital in the state that can provide state of the art care for children who have suffered a stroke. A team of Pediatric Neurologists is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Stroke Center at WVU is a JCAHO certified center. The WVU Stroke team uses the latest treatment options to stop a stroke while it is happening, reduce the amount of damage to the brain and ultimately ensure the greatest chance of survival and best outcome for our patients.

Our comprehensive pediatric team includes pediatric neurologists, hematologists, intensive care and emergency medicine doctors, neonatologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional radiologists. We are experienced in the care of all stroke types that affect children like arterial ischemic strokes, hemorrhagic strokes and cerebral sinovenous thrombosis. We can provide multiple treatment approaches as well as a comprehensive rehabilitation approach as a key component of post-stroke care.

![MCj02390390000[1]]() When a stroke occurs, getting to the hospital in a hurry can make all the difference. Call 304-598-6000.

After patients are discharged from the hospital, pediatric neurologists provide continued care in the **WVU** **Pediatric Stroke Clinic,** in the Physician Office Center. Pediatric hematologists, cardiologists and neurosurgeons join this clinic as necessary, in order to provide specialized care to our patients.

Some Facts

* As many as 13 per 100,000 children suffer from a stroke. Stroke is more frequent in newborns occurring in about 1 per 4000 live births.
* Stroke is the sixth leading cause of death in children.
* Diagnosis of stroke is often delayed or even missed in children.
* Early treatment is critical to optimize long-term outcome and to reduce complication or recurrence.

For appointments at the **WVU Pediatric Stroke Clinic** call: 304-598-4835

Dr. Pergami, Division of Child Neurology, WVU Children Hospital.

Direction to the **WVU** **Pediatric Stroke Clinic, map**

Campus map

For information about ongoing **research studies** about pediatric strokeat WVU call 304-293-7331

**Stroke in children: TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS**

**What is a stroke?**

A stroke is an injury to brain that happens when blood flow can not reach the brain because of a clot in an artery, or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, filling the cavity with blood.

Often a stroke in children in the results of an underlying disease, such as a cardiac malformation or a blood disorder.

**What are the signs of a stroke in children?**

* Weakness or numbness of face, arm or leg, usually on one side
* Problems speaking or understanding language
* New seizure
* Severe headache
* Trouble with vision
* Severe dizziness or loss of coordination
* Severe drowsiness and vomiting
* Infants may just have seizures, or lethargy

**What do I do if my child has these symptoms?**

* Dial 911 or go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department.
* Do not give your child anything to eat or drink.
* Suggest that your local medical professional contact the health-line at WVU 304-508-6000, and ask for the Stroke Team to be paged. There is always a neurologist on-call after hours and on weekends to answer your questions and help with any concerns.

**If your child is having a stroke, time is critical.**

**How can strokes be treated in children?**

The treatment for stroke depends upon the cause. Some children will require anticoagulation to make their blood flow better others will require antiplatelet agents (aspirin). Clot busters such as tissue plasminogen activator (tPa) are not yet approved in children, but studies are being conducted in this regard.

**Will my child fully recover from a stroke?**

Many children, especially if very young, can recover completely or very well. Important issues are the size and location of the stroke and whether risk factors for stroke can be identified and possibly treated.

Rehabilitation by physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy is extremely important for long term outcome.

Medications or injections can be used to treat spasticity (stiffness in the arm or leg) that results from a stroke.

**What tests will my child need to evaluate him/her for a stroke?**

In the emergency department, your child will need a CT scan to make sure there is no bleeding in the brain.

Eventually, an MRI of the brain as well as a MR angiogram will be done to better evaluate the extent of the stroke and to visualize his/her blood vessels in details.

Additional laboratory tests and may be needed later based upon your child’s symptoms.

**What research is currently being done regarding children’s stroke?**

WVU is part of a large network of child neurologists - International Pediatric Stroke Study (IPSS) - who are working to better understand mechanisms of stroke in children and evaluate possible treatments as they become available. we are contributing to international studies aimed at better understanding the role of infection in stroke, and the importance of seizures after a stroke.