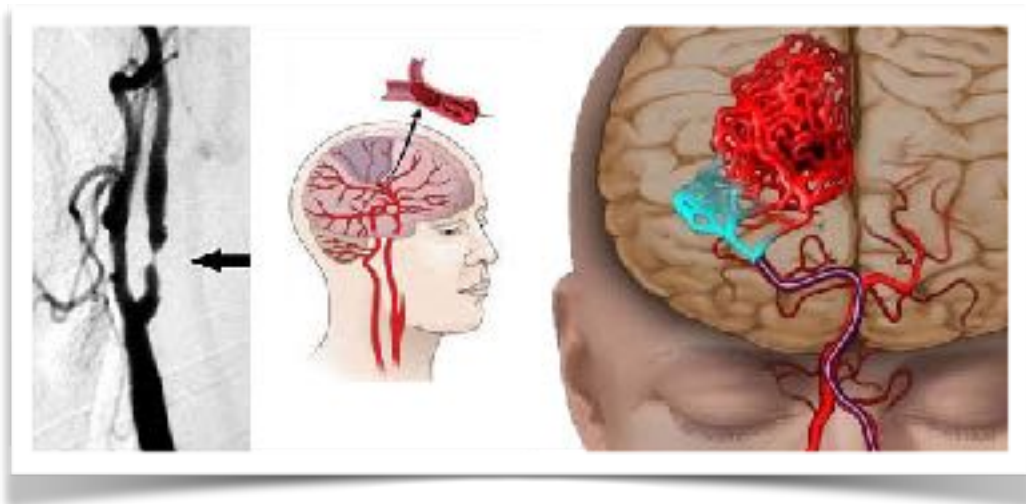


What is a Stroke?

A stroke is a brain attack and a critical medical emergency. A stroke is an interruption of the blood supply to any part of the brain. If blood flow is halted to any area of the brain, within minutes the brain cells can die and the ability to control that area of the brain are lost either temporary or long term.



There are two kinds of stroke. The more common kind, called ischemic stroke, is caused by a blood clot that blocks or plugs a blood vessel in the brain. The other kind, called hemorrhagic stroke, is caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain. "Mini-strokes" or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), occur when the blood supply to the brain is briefly interrupted.

In the U.S., approximately 40 percent of people who die from stroke are male, with 60 percent of deaths occurring in females.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), compared with Caucasian people, African-Americans have nearly twice the risk of a first-time stroke and a much higher risk of death from stroke.