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## tistics

- Stroke is one of the top 10 causes of death in children
- At least one newborn in every 2,300 live births will have a stroke per year.
- 3 to 6 of every 100,000 children will experience a stroke.
- Less than 1% of children that suffered from a perinatal stroke will go on to have another stroke.
- There is a 6-14% chance that a child who suffered from a childhood stroke will have another one.
- Nearly 80% of all strokes are preventable

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A *Family Guide to Pediatric Stroke*.  
Canadian Stroke Network, 2011,  
[www.strokebestpractices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/PEDSGuide-EN.pdf](http://www.strokebestpractices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/PEDSGuide-EN.pdf).

“Stroke in Infants, Children, and Youth.” *Stroke in Infants, Children, and Youth*, American Stroke Association,  
[www.strokeassociation.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm\\_302255.pdf](http://www.strokeassociation.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_302255.pdf).

“What is stroke?” *Hope after stroke*, National Stroke Association,  
[www.stroke.org/understand-stroke/what-stroke](http://www.stroke.org/understand-stroke/what-stroke).

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And why you must act FAST!

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### ace drooping-

Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven or lopsided?



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### rm weakness-

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?



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### peech difficulty-

Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue." Is the person able to correctly repeat the words?



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### ime to call 9-1-1-

If someone shows any of these symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 immediately. Also, note the time when the first symptoms appeared because emergency responders will want to know.



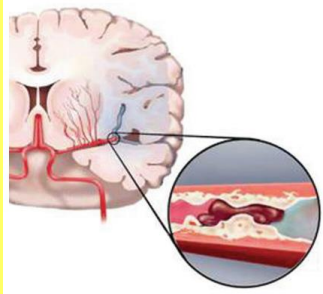


## What is a stroke?

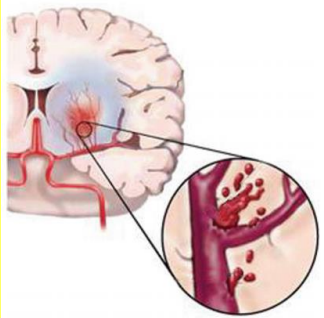
A stroke, also known as a brain attack, occurs when blood flow to an area of the brain has been cut off. This lack of circulation means less oxygen which causes brain cells to die. This happens two main ways.

### Ischemic Stroke

When an artery that supplies blood to a region of the brain narrows or becomes blocked, blood flow decreases, resulting in brain damage.



### Hemorrhagic Stroke



When a bulging brain vessel bursts, or a weakened vessel leaks, blood spills in and around the brain causing swelling and pressure, resulting in brain damage.

### Why is pediatric stroke important?

Stroke in children often has delayed recognition or none at all. Child survivors suffer many neurological problems, including paralysis. Prevention and early detection are crucial.



## Perinatal Stroke

- Occurs between 22 weeks of pregnancy and 28 days old.
- 80-90% of these are ischemic strokes.

### Risk Factors and Causes

- Majority of causes remain unknown
- Congenital heart disease
- Disorders of the placenta
- Blood clotting disorders
- Infections (e.g. meningitis)
- Dehydration

### Signs and Symptoms

- Seizures
- Weakness on one side of the body
  - Hand preference: Before the age of 1, babies should not show a consistent handedness.
  - Hand fisting or toe clenching on one side of the body.
  - Decrease use of one side of the body.



## Childhood Stroke

- Occurs between 28 days old and 18 years old.
- There is an equal risk of ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes.

### Risk Factors and Causes

- Birth defects
- Congenital heart disease
- Disorders of blood vessels
- Infections (e.g. meningitis)
- Head trauma
- Blood disorders (e.g. sickle cell or leukemia)
- Dehydration

### Signs and Symptoms

- Weakness on one side of the body
- Trouble speaking or sudden confusion
- Sudden dizziness or trouble walking
- Loss of vision
- Severe Headache
- Seizures
- Trouble staying awake and alert

