

Clot-busting drugs improve diabetic stroke patients' prospects, study reveals

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(Medical Xpress) -- Clot-busting drugs given to patients who have diabetes and previously suffered a stroke aid their recovery from a second stroke a new study has revealed.

The research by the University of Glasgow, published in the November 16, 2011, issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, was conducted because current approval by [drug](#) authorities suggests such drugs should not be given to these patients.

Dr Kennedy Lees, Professor of Cerebrovascular Medicine, said: “The use of these drugs – called thrombolytic [therapy](#), can limit damage and disability due to blood clots. However, current guidelines can keep people from receiving the therapy if they have a history of [stroke](#) and [diabetes](#).”

The researchers compared data from 23,062 people who had received clot-busting therapy, along with 6,166 people who did not.

Measurements of how well people were able to function 90 days after the stroke were taken from both groups. A total of 19 per cent of people had diabetes and 17 per cent had a prior stroke.

Stroke outcomes were measured on a scale of zero to six; zero represented no symptoms, three represented moderate disability where a person would require some help but is able to walk unassisted and six

indicated death.

The study found that 43 percent of people with diabetes who received the clot-busting therapy had a disability score of two or less, compared with only 34 percent of diabetes patients who did not receive the therapy. Additionally, the study found 48 percent of patients with previous stroke who received clot-busting therapy scored a two or less, compared with 35 percent of patients with previous stroke who did not receive the therapy.

“Better outcomes with therapy show that people with prior stroke or diabetes should not be excluded from receiving thrombolytic therapy,” said Lees.

Provided by University of Glasgow

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