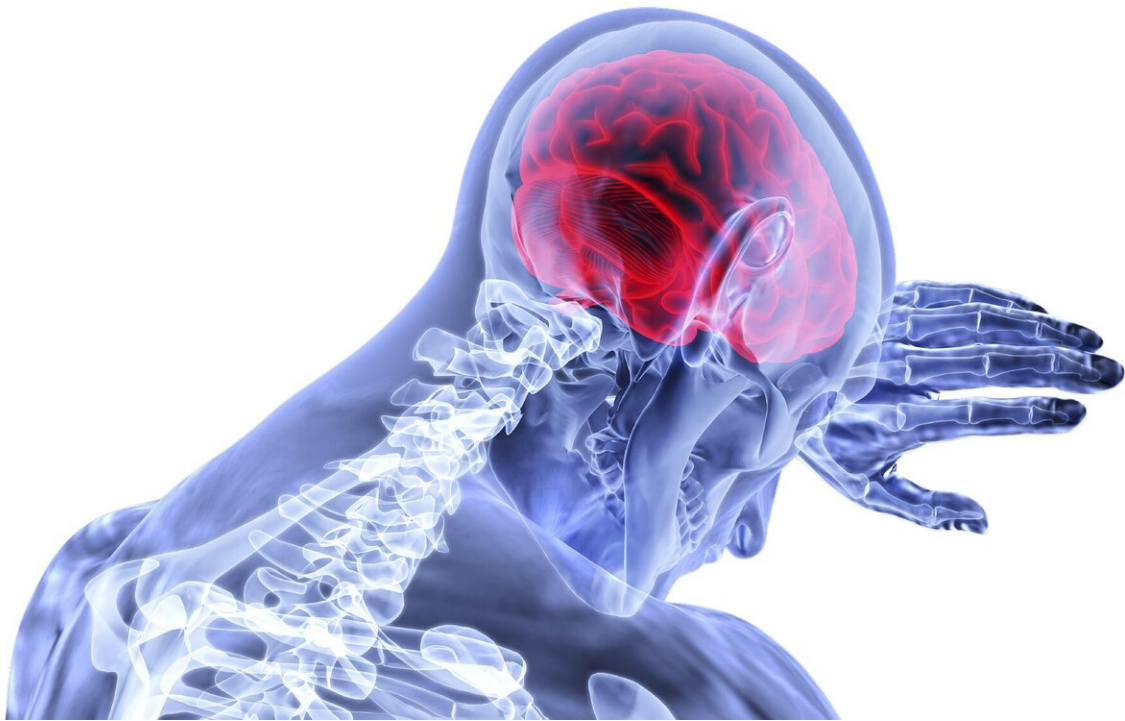


# **Giving patients anti-platelet medication sooner after stroke treatment may significantly improve patient recovery**

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Administering anti-platelet medication within 24 hours of mechanical thrombectomy, an effective procedure for stroke, may help patients more successfully recover and prevent high-risk individuals from

experiencing additional strokes, according to a study presented today at the [Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery's \(SNIS\) 20th Annual Meeting](#).

Anti-platelet medication prevents [blood clots](#) from forming (and potentially causing strokes) by keeping platelets from sticking together. However, this medication can also potentially cause brain bleeding if administered soon after [mechanical thrombectomy](#). To find a way to safely use this essential medication without causing additional risk to [patients](#), researchers reviewed data from 190 patients who underwent this treatment between 2016 and 2020, and categorized patients by those who received anti-platelet medication less than 24 hours after surgery and those who received the medication later.

In their study, "Safety and Functional Outcomes with Early Initiation of Anti-platelet Therapy Following Mechanical Thrombectomy in Emergent Large Vessel Occlusion Strokes: A Single Institution Registry Study," researchers noted that patients who received anti-platelet medication within 24 hours of mechanical thrombectomy were significantly more physically independent at discharge from the hospital than patients who received the anti-platelet medication later.

This difference was maintained longer-term as well, with patients who received early anti-platelet medication having much better physical functioning scores one month and three months after surgery. In addition, there was no sign that giving patients anti-platelet medication earlier led to increased risk of brain bleeding after surgery.

"Continuously working to improve patient outcomes is one of our [top priorities](#)," said Dr. Hepzibha Alexander, a neurosurgery resident at Ascension Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan, and lead author in the study. "Finding a new way to safely use this already-essential medication is an exciting step forward in helping patients thrive after

stroke."

Provided by Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery

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