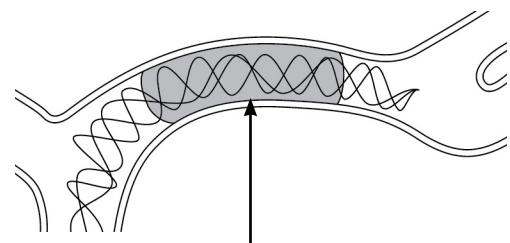
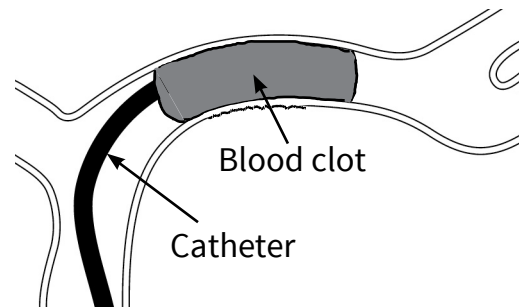
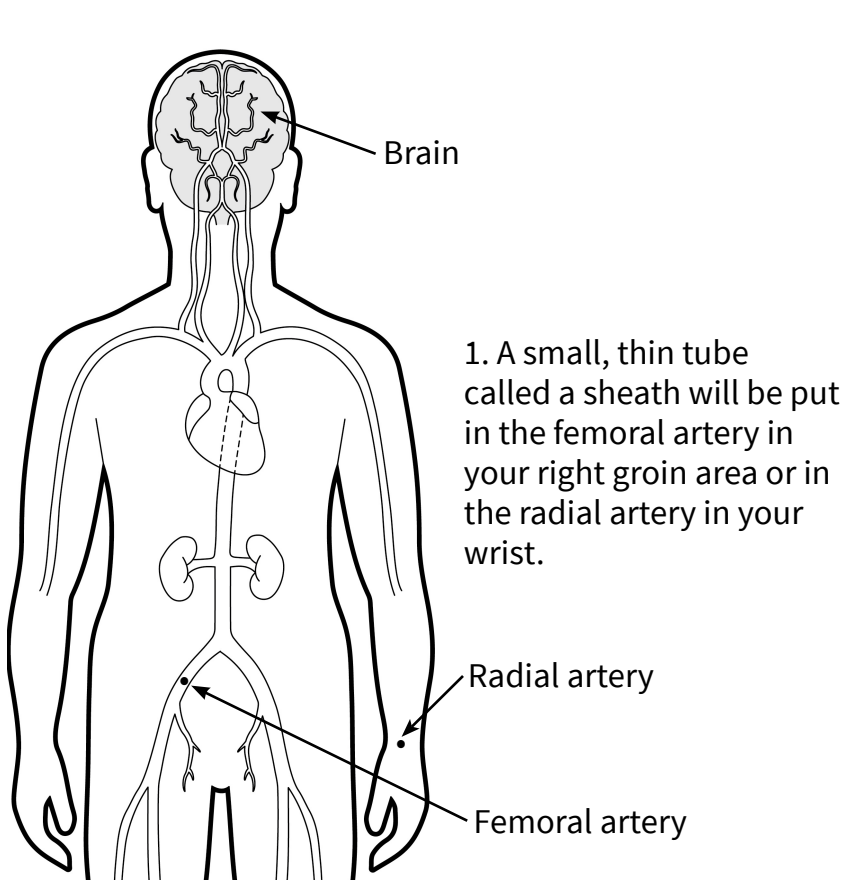


Endovascular Thrombectomy (EVT)

What is an endovascular thrombectomy (EVT)?

- A stroke happens when a blood clot interrupts or lowers blood flow to the brain. An EVT removes blood clots from the brain.
- You may need an EVT if:
 - › Your stroke is caused by a blood clot in a large blood vessel in your brain.
 - › Your symptoms started within the last 12 hours.
- When you arrive at the Halifax Infirmary (H.I.), you may have another CT scan to check that you still need this treatment.
- If your health care team finds that an EVT would not help you, you will stay in the H.I. Emergency Department until an ambulance can bring you back to the hospital that sent you to the H.I.

How is an EVT done?



Who will do the EVT?

- An EVT is done by a team of doctors, nurses, and X-ray technologists. This team has special training in using X-rays to guide tiny tools (like tubes and wires) inside blood vessels to diagnose and treat stroke.

Where will the EVT be done?

- In Nova Scotia, an EVT can only be done at the H.I. (part of the QE II) in Halifax. The EVT will be done in a special room in the diagnostic imaging (X-ray) area.

What will happen after the EVT?

- After the EVT, you will go to a recovery room. Your health care team will check your vital signs (breathing, pulse, blood pressure, heart rate, temperature) and stroke symptoms often.
- Your health care team will monitor you for 6 to 24 hours. When you are stable, an ambulance will take you to a hospital closer to where you live to continue your stroke care. You may be moved from the recovery room to a bed on the Stroke Unit (Unit 7.4 at the Halifax Infirmary).

What is the role of my support persons and/or my Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) when I am being transferred for an EVT?

- It is important that your support person (and/or your SDM) gives their contact information to your health care team before you are transferred to the H.I.
- Your health care team at the H.I. will use this information to update your support person and/or SDM about where you are and how you are doing.

How can my support person(s) find out how I am doing after I am transferred to the H.I.?

- After you leave for Halifax, your support persons should wait a reasonable amount of time for you to get there and for the decision to be made about EVT. If they have not heard from the doctor or nurse after that time, they can call:

Acute Stroke Nurse:

- › Phone: 902-430-2370

Halifax Infirmary Stroke Unit:

- › Phone: 902-473-2258

- Please choose only 1 support person to contact the H.I. team for updates.

Will I have to pay for the ambulance to go for an EVT?

- No. There is no cost for patients travelling between 2 hospitals for treatment.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Adapted with permission from: "Mechanical Thrombectomy (Clot Retrieval)" from Hamilton Health Sciences Patient Education Library. Available from: www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/patient-education-library

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