

# ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Every 40 seconds, a person has a stroke.<sup>1</sup> The right treatment can mean the difference between life and death.

Help us help them #SurviveStroke.  
[www.getaheadofstroke.org](http://www.getaheadofstroke.org)



## THE GOOD NEWS

Neurointerventional care teams are specially trained to perform endovascular treatment — a type of stroke surgery that removes blood clots from a blocked artery.

## THE CHALLENGE

Most stroke care systems haven't caught up with improvements in treating stroke, and they are not as well coordinated as they need to be. In fact, less than 10 percent of ischemic stroke patients are treated through stroke surgery.<sup>2</sup>



Michael Alexander, MD, Los Angeles, CA

Nearly 2 million brain cells *die each minute* a stroke goes untreated.<sup>3</sup> Some people who experience a stroke die; others are permanently disabled. For the best possible outcome, a stroke victim needs to receive stroke surgery **within 6 hours**.<sup>4</sup>



Stroke is a leading cause of death and long-term disability in the United States.<sup>5</sup>

## IT'S TIME FOR BIG CHANGE

Policies and regulations that guide stroke treatment vary widely by state. To ensure patients with emergent large vessel occlusion (ELVO) get to a stroke center and endovascular treatment — no matter where they live — the Get Ahead of Stroke campaign is working to:

- Educate first responders about uniform stroke triage and enact legislative change in all 50 states requiring EMS to bring ischemic stroke patients with ELVO to neurointerventional-ready hospitals with 24/7/365 coverage.
- Build capacity in hospitals to establish truly comprehensive stroke centers equipped with the proper technology, devices, and qualified medical personnel, as well as an understanding of the optimal treatment protocol.
- Ensure that neurointerventional-ready hospitals have qualified doctors on staff and on call to conduct the appropriate procedures.

Doing these three things can make it possible for thousands more people to survive stroke every year.

**“[Endovascular treatment] has the potential to improve the lives of the 15 million people who suffer strokes worldwide each year.”**

— Ed McCauley, PhD, Vice President (Research),  
University of Calgary



Stroke kills almost 130,000 people in the United States each year.<sup>6</sup>



More than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke every year.<sup>7</sup>

## STROKE SURGERY SAVES AND RESTORES LIVES

The vast majority of strokes — 87 percent — are *ischemic strokes*, caused by a blood clot in the brain.<sup>8</sup> Rapid access to stroke surgery (endovascular treatment) is the best path to recovery for patients who have suffered an ischemic stroke caused by ELVO. Patients who receive stroke surgery increase their life expectancy by 5 years more than patients who do not receive this specialized treatment.<sup>9</sup>

**“The brain dies faster than any other organ. We already transport heart attack and trauma patients immediately to the proper kind of care. Isn’t it time we do this for stroke patients?”**

— Mahesh Jamarayan, MD, Providence, RI

## STROKE SURGERY SAVES MONEY

The 795,000 strokes per year experienced by Americans cost about \$34 billion, including health services and missed days of work.<sup>10</sup> Endovascular treatment for strokes makes the most financial sense.<sup>11</sup>

Over their lifetime, stroke patients can save up to \$23,000 when they receive this kind of treatment. What’s more, on average, patient stays in hospitals will shorten by 4 days.<sup>12</sup>



Recent studies report a significant increase in rates of ischemic stroke in people ages 15 – 30 years from 1994 to 2012.<sup>13</sup>

## REFERENCES

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JOIN US IN BUILDING A SYSTEM OF CARE THAT ALLOWS EVERYONE ACCESS TO THE BEST TREATMENT FOR STROKE. PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT AT [WWW.GETAHEADOFSTROKE.ORG](http://WWW.GETAHEADOFSTROKE.ORG).

### ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

“Get Ahead of Stroke” is a national public education and advocacy campaign designed to improve systems of care for stroke patients. An initiative of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS), the campaign’s goal is to secure the best possible outcomes for stroke patients by driving policy change and public awareness nationwide.