

Doctors Urge Families to Recognize Early Warning Signs of Stroke in Elderly Patients Before It Is Too Late

Recognizing stroke symptoms early and reaching a Comprehensive Stroke Center quickly can preserve brain function, reduce disability, and save lives.

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Doctors Urge Families to Recognize
Early Warning Signs of [Stroke](#) in Elderly
Patients Before It Is Too Late

Stroke specialists emphasize that recognizing symptoms early and reaching a [Comprehensive Stroke Center](#) within the treatment window can save brain function, reduce disability, and save lives.

GUNTUR, Andhra Pradesh, India —
Stroke continues to be one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability worldwide. Despite remarkable advances in emergency stroke treatment, many patients still arrive too late for life-saving therapies because early warning signs are mistaken for normal aging or ignored altogether. Neurosurgeons and stroke specialists are urging families to treat every suspected stroke as a medical emergency, emphasizing that "time is brain."

Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla, Founder and Chief Neurosurgeon at Dr. Rao's Hospital – International Institute of Neurosciences (IIN), says rapid recognition and immediate transport to a Comprehensive Stroke Center can dramatically improve neurological recovery.

"Every minute during an untreated ischemic stroke, nearly two million brain cells may be lost. Early diagnosis, rapid brain imaging, and timely intervention by an experienced multidisciplinary stroke team provide the best opportunity to preserve brain function and reduce lifelong disability."



Recognize Stroke Symptoms Early. Save Brain. Save Lives.

Understanding the Types of Stroke

- Ischemic Stroke (85%)**: Caused by a clot blocking blood flow to the brain. Early treatment can restore circulation and save brain tissue.
- Hemorrhagic Stroke (15%)**: Caused by bleeding in or around the brain due to a ruptured blood vessel. Requires immediate medical attention.

Advanced Treatments. Better Outcomes.

- tPA (Clot-Dissolving Therapy)**: If medication that dissolves the clot and restores blood flow when given within the treatment window.
- Mechanical Thrombectomy**: Minimally invasive procedure to remove large clots from blocked arteries and restore blood flow.
- Neurocritical Care**: Specialized monitoring and treatment to protect the brain and prevent complications.
- Rehabilitation**: Personalized therapy to regain strength, speech, movement and independence.

Mechanical Thrombectomy: Restoring Hope, Saving Lives

Comprehensive Stroke Center Expertise, Technology, Teamwork.

- 24/7 Emergency Stroke Care
- Advanced Imaging & Diagnostics
- Interventional Stroke Specialists
- Neurosurgery & Neurocritical Care
- Rehabilitation & Long-term Support

Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla
Founder & Chief Neurosurgeon

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Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla highlights the importance of early stroke recognition, advanced stroke treatments, and comprehensive stroke care, including thrombolysis (tPA) and mechanical thrombectomy, at Dr. Rao's Hospital – International Institute of Neuro

Recognizing the Early Warning Signs of Stroke

Medical experts recommend using the internationally recognized BE FAST approach:

B – Balance: Sudden loss of balance or coordination

E – Eyes: Sudden vision loss or double vision

F – Face: Facial drooping or asymmetry

A – Arms: Weakness or numbness affecting one side of the body

S – Speech: Slurred speech, difficulty speaking, or inability to understand language

T – Time: Call emergency medical services immediately and proceed to a Comprehensive Stroke Center.



The advanced biplane cath lab at Dr. Rao's Hospital, designed for precision neurovascular procedures and minimally invasive surgeries, first in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in India.

“

Every minute counts in stroke. Early recognition, rapid imaging, and timely treatment at a Comprehensive Stroke Center give patients the best chance of recovery.”

*Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla,
Neurosurgeon & Founder, Dr.
Rao's Hospital*

Additional symptoms may include sudden confusion, severe headache without an obvious cause, difficulty walking, swallowing problems, or sudden loss of consciousness.

Stroke in Older Adults Versus Younger Patients

Although stroke is more common in elderly individuals, specialists are seeing an increasing number of strokes among younger adults.

Stroke in Elderly Patients

Older patients often have traditional vascular risk factors, including:

High blood pressure

Diabetes mellitus

Atrial fibrillation

High cholesterol

Carotid artery disease

Heart disease

Elderly patients may also present with more severe neurological deficits and frequently have multiple medical conditions requiring coordinated multidisciplinary management.

Stroke in Young Adults

Stroke in younger patients often has different underlying causes, including:

Arterial dissection

Congenital heart disease

Patent foramen ovale (PFO)

Blood clotting disorders

Autoimmune diseases

Cerebral venous thrombosis

Drug-related vascular injury

Rare genetic disorders

Dr. Rao explains that identifying the cause of stroke is essential because treatment and strategies to prevent recurrence differ significantly between younger and older patients.

"Every stroke patient deserves a comprehensive evaluation. Younger patients often require investigations beyond routine imaging, while elderly patients frequently benefit from aggressive management of vascular risk factors and rapid reperfusion therapy."

Why Immediate Evaluation Matters

Emergency evaluation includes:

Immediate neurological examination

Non-contrast CT brain



The high-tech neurosurgery operating room at Dr. Rao's Hospital, Guntur featuring advanced imaging and navigation systems for precise brain and spine surgeries.



Dr Rao the best Spine surgeon In India and Guntur

CT angiography or MR angiography
Advanced perfusion imaging when indicated

Identification of ischemic versus hemorrhagic stroke

Determination of salvageable brain tissue

Assessment for large vessel occlusion

Rapid imaging helps specialists determine whether the patient qualifies for advanced stroke treatment.

Modern Stroke Treatments Can Reverse Disability

Today's evidence-based stroke therapies have transformed outcomes when delivered within appropriate time windows.

Intravenous Thrombolysis (tPA)

Patients with eligible acute ischemic stroke may receive intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) within the recommended treatment window after symptom onset, following careful clinical and imaging evaluation. This clot-dissolving medication can restore blood flow and improve neurological recovery in appropriately selected patients.

Mechanical Thrombectomy

Patients with large vessel occlusion may benefit from mechanical thrombectomy, an advanced minimally invasive endovascular procedure performed by specially trained neurointerventional specialists.

Using sophisticated catheter-based techniques, the clot is physically removed from blocked brain arteries, restoring blood circulation and significantly improving functional outcomes in carefully selected patients.

Growing evidence demonstrates that mechanical thrombectomy has become the standard of care for eligible patients with large vessel ischemic stroke.

Why a Comprehensive Stroke Center Matters

Not every hospital can provide advanced stroke care.



Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla featured in The Enterprise World's 2025 cover story for transforming neurosurgery and neuroscience in India.

A Comprehensive Stroke Center offers:

- 24/7 emergency stroke response
- Advanced CT, MRI, and vascular imaging
- Stroke neurologists and neurosurgeons
- Neurocritical care
- Mechanical thrombectomy capability
- Emergency neurosurgery for hemorrhagic stroke
- Endovascular cerebrovascular specialists
- Rehabilitation services
- Multidisciplinary stroke care under one roof

Receiving treatment at a comprehensive stroke center can reduce disability and improve long-term functional outcomes by ensuring rapid diagnosis and access to specialized therapies.

The Importance of an Interventional Stroke Specialist

Mechanical thrombectomy is a highly specialized procedure requiring advanced expertise in cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery.

Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla emphasizes that outcomes depend not only on early arrival but also on timely evaluation by experienced stroke teams capable of determining the most appropriate treatment strategy for each individual patient.

"Successful stroke treatment depends on rapid recognition, advanced imaging, appropriate patient selection, and timely intervention. Comprehensive stroke teams—including vascular neurologists, neurointerventional specialists, neurosurgeons, neuroanesthesiologists, and neurocritical care experts—work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients."

Stroke Prevention Saves Lives

Experts recommend reducing stroke risk through:

- Regular blood pressure monitoring
- Diabetes control
- Cholesterol management
- Smoking cessation
- Healthy diet
- Regular physical activity
- Weight management
- Treatment of atrial fibrillation
- Routine medical check-ups

Families should also recognize that Transient Ischemic Attacks (TIAs) or "mini-strokes" are important warning signs that require urgent neurological evaluation because they may precede a major stroke.

About Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla

Dr. Mohana Rao Patibandla is the Founder and Chief Neurosurgeon of Dr. Rao's Hospital – International Institute of Neurosciences, Guntur, India. Internationally trained in India and the United States, he specializes in cerebrovascular neurosurgery, minimally invasive brain and spine surgery, endovascular neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, pediatric neurosurgery, skull base surgery, and stereotactic radiosurgery. He is committed to advancing stroke awareness, emergency neurological care, and evidence-based treatment through clinical excellence, education, and research.

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