

Must-Know Vocabulary

FOR WORKING WITH STROKE PATIENTS

- **Aneurysm:** Localized enlargement of an artery due to weakened arterial wall. A ruptured aneurysm can cause a stroke.
- **Aphasia:** Challenges with communication due to left side brain damage.
- **Apraxia:** Difficulty performing movements on command. Individual can understand the command, but are unable to carry it out.
- **Atherosclerosis:** Hardening and narrowing of arteries.
- **Contralateral Symptoms:** Impairments occurring on opposite side from where lesion occurred.

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- **Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA):** Medical term for stroke. X X X
- **Dysarthria:** Slurred speech as a result of muscular weakness or poor coordination. X X
- **Dysphagia:** Swallowing disorder often associated with strokes. X
- **Embolus:** Blood clot that travels to the brain. X X X X X X
- **Flaccidity:** Term used to describe muscle tone. Limp or lacking firmness.
- **Hemiparesis:** Weakness on one side of the body.

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- **Hemiplegia:** Total or partial paralysis of one side of the body.
- **Hemorrhage stroke:** Occurs when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures. Most critical type of stroke.
- **Hyperlipidemia:** High cholesterol
- **Hypertension:** High blood pressure
- **Ipsilateral symptoms:** Symptoms occurring on same side as where the lesion occurred.
- **Ischemic stroke:** Occurs when a blood vessel in brain develops a clot and deprives brain of oxygen.
- **Single side neglect:** Impaired awareness on one side of the body.



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- **Spasticity:** Increased stiffness and tightness in muscles, preventing normal movement patterns. The muscle remains contracted and presents with resistance while passive stretching occurs.
- **Thrombus:** Blood clot that forms in blood vessel of brain.
- **Tissue Plasminogen activator (tPA):** Medication that can dismantle blockage within an artery. Must be administered within 4.5 hours of first stroke symptoms.
- **Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA):** "Mini Stroke". TIA occurs when blood supply is temporarily cut off to brain. Typically less than a few minutes.