

Endovascular intervention compared to standard treatment for stroke

3 November 2015

In a meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke, an endovascular intervention (such as use of a very small catheter to remove a blood clot) compared to standard medical care (administration of a clot dissolving agent) was associated with improved functional outcomes and higher rates of functional independence at 90 days, but no significant difference in symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage (bleeding in the brain) or all-cause mortality, according to a study in the November 3 issue of *JAMA*.

The current standard therapy for [acute ischemic stroke](#) is intravenous administration of [tissue plasminogen activator](#) (tPA). Although intravenous tPA improves survival and functional outcomes when administered as early as possible after onset of ischemic [stroke](#), its use is limited by the narrow therapeutic time window (

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