

Stroke\_1991.txt  
SECTION XIV  
STROKE

Stroke occurs when the blood flow to the brain is interrupted long enough to cause damage.

This may be caused by a clot formed in an artery in the brain or carried to the brain in the bloodstream, a ruptured artery in the brain or by compression of an artery in the brain, as found with brain tumors.

First aid consists primarily of recognizing signs and symptoms and seeking professional attention.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A STROKE INCLUDE:

- \* WEAKNESS AND NUMBNESS OF THE FACE, ARM,  
OR LEG, OFTEN ON ONE SIDE OF THE BODY ONLY.
- \* DIZZINESS
- \* CONFUSION
- \* HEADACHE
- \* RINGING IN THE EARS
- \* A CHANGE OF MOOD
- \* DIFFICULTY SPEAKING
- \* UNCONSCIOUSNESS

- \* PUPILS OF UNEVEN SIZE
- \* DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING & SWALLOWING
- \* LOSS OF BOWEL AND BLADDER CONTROL

IF YOU SUSPECT A PERSON IS HAVING A STROKE, HAVE THEM STOP  
WHATEVER  
THEY ARE DOING AND REST.

PROMPTLY OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL HELP. REASSURE THE VICTIM AND KEEP  
THEM COMFORTABLE. DO NOT GIVE ANYTHING BY MOUTH. IF THE VICTIM  
VOMITS, ALLOW FOR FLUIDS TO DRAIN FROM THE MOUTH. OBSERVE  
CAREFULLY  
WHILE AWAITING PROFESSIONAL HELP AND, IF TRAINED TO DO SO,  
MONITOR  
THE AIRWAY, BREATHING AND CIRCULATION AND BE PREPARED TO  
ADMINISTER RESCUE BREATHING OR CPR, IF REQUIRED!