



Thrombolytic Therapy for Ischemic Strokes: Patient Information

What is Tenecteplase (TNKase)?

Tenecteplase (TNKase) is a protein that can break up blood clots. It is a medication administered to patients experiencing a stroke caused by a sudden blockage by a blood clot of an artery that supplies blood to the brain. This is also called an acute ischemic stroke.

How does TNKase work?

TNKase is a medication specifically designed to target and dissolve fibrin, a protein formed in a blood clot that impedes the flow of blood to the brain. Stroke specialists have used this class of medication for more than 25 years.

What are the benefits of TNKase?

Large clinical studies regularly show that giving a medication like TNKase can increase a patient's chances of returning to pre-stroke activities and reduces the chance of disability.

What are the risks associated with TNKase?

It is important for the physician to consider the individual patient when choosing any clot-busting treatment. Some patients may not be eligible for TNKase due to the time window, while others might be at a higher risk for bleeding. If a patient is experiencing a stroke due to a blood vessel blockage, the stroke team will go through a series of questions to decide if TNKase is safe to administer. Our physicians will review the patient's medical history, medications, symptoms, and brain scans in detail to discuss the individualized risks and benefits. Although rare, this medication can cause bleeding in the brain, which can be a life-threatening side effect. On average, 32 of every 100 patients treated within 3 hours of symptom onset will have a better overall outcome as a result of receiving this medication; 3 will have a worse overall disability outcome. Treatments to reverse the effects of the medication may be administered.

Just like any medication, there is risk of an allergic reaction. The most common is swelling around the lips and tongue. Medications may be given to reduce the risk.

How is TNKase administered?

TNKase is administered over seconds through an IV (intravenously).

What to expect after TNKase administration?

The staff will perform frequent assessments while closely monitoring vital signs. To monitor for risks of this medication, every patient receiving TNKase will be admitted to or transferred to an intensive care unit (ICU).

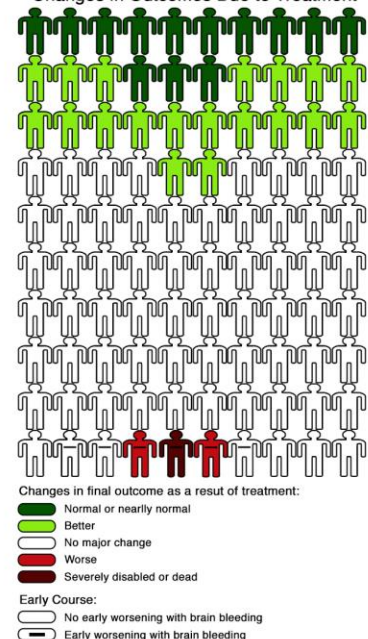
What might additional treatment look like for a stroke patient?

In addition to TNKase, patients with a blockage in a large artery supplying the brain may undergo a procedure called thrombectomy. This procedure removes the blood clot causing the stroke by entering the groin. The TriHealth Stroke Team, including neuro-interventional specialists, will determine patient eligibility.

What is the recovery process like after a stroke?

While some patients show immediate improvements, studies have shown that patients who receive TNKase are more likely to have little or no disabilities after three-months compared to patients who did not receive the medication.

tPA for Cerebral Ischemia within 3 hours of Onset
Changes in Outcomes Due to Treatment



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