

# Thrombectomy aftercare

Information for patients who have undergone **Radial Puncture**

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## What is Thrombectomy?

Thrombectomy is an emergency treatment for some cases of ischemic stroke, which occur when a clot obstructs blood flow to the brain. Specialised catheters and stents are used during thrombectomy to retrieve the clot, restoring blood flow and minimizing potential damage to the brain.

The access to the blood vessels in the brain is gained using a catheter passed through a small puncture in an artery in the wrist or groin.

Thrombectomy enhances the chances of recovery and reduces the risk of long-term disability associated with a stroke. The procedure may be also used in conjunction with another medical treatment for ischemic stroke called Thrombolysis which aims to dissolve clots.

## **What is a TR Band?**

If the radial artery is used to access the blood clot in your brain, the puncture site is closed using a TR band which is a band that your doctor fits on your wrist. A small pouch is inflated in the band with air from a syringe, applying pressure directly onto the puncture site to stop bleeding. After thrombectomy, patients are transferred to the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU), where the puncture on the wrist is monitored. The air pressure in the band is reduced after 1 and then 2 hours, closely checking for bleeding as well as circulation, motion and sensation of your hand.

If you have been given Thrombolysis therapy this can increase the risk of bleeding from radial puncture. Your TR band will be removed when bleeding stops (normally after 2 hours).

## **Aftercare of radial puncture**

A transparent dressing called Tegaderm is placed over the puncture site, allowing clear visibility of any bleeding. Very occasionally, bleeding can occur in the first 12–24 hours. If it does, nursing staff will apply pressure to the site. Bleeding should stop in about 5 minutes.

To prevent infection, it is advised to shower and not to bathe for the next 2 days, avoiding submerging the wound in water. You may remove the dressing on your wrist in the shower after 2 days. Let the water run over the wound and pat it dry. If you are discharged home at this point and you have concerns

about the wound, please contact your GP for further advice  
For 2 days following thrombectomy, you will be advised to take things a little easier than usual and not to strain yourself.

## **Recovery from Stroke**

The stroke team will guide you through the next stages of your recovery, which might involve collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, including Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Dieticians.

My Notes: