

Stroke Misdiagnosis Claims



The complexities of treating strokes

A stroke happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Without blood brain cells can be damaged or die. This damage can have different effects, depending on where it happens in the brain.

There are broadly five warning signs of a stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body).
- Sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech.
- Sudden vision problems in one or both eyes.
- Sudden difficulty walking or dizziness, loss of balance or problems with coordination.
- Severe headache with no known cause.

There are three main types of stroke: a transient ischemic attack, ischemic stroke, and haemorrhagic stroke. It's estimated that 87 percent of strokes are ischemic. An ischemic stroke occurs where the blood supply is interrupted due to a blood clot. In contrast a haemorrhagic occurs when a weakened blood vessel supplying the brain bursts

A stroke is a serious life-threatening medical condition and urgent treatment is essential. The sooner a person receives treatment for a stroke, the less damage is likely to happen.

Treatment depends on the type of stroke, which part of the brain was affected and what caused it. Strokes are usually treated with medication. This includes medicines to prevent and dissolve blood clots, reduce blood pressure and reduce cholesterol levels.

Ischaemic strokes can often be treated using injections of a medication called alteplase, which dissolves blood clots and restores blood flow to the brain. This use of "clot-busting" medication is known as thrombolysis. Alteplase is most effective if started as soon as possible after the stroke occurs. It is not generally recommended if more than 4.5 hours have passed, as it is not clear how beneficial it is when used after this time.

Before alteplase can be used, it is very important that a brain scan is carried out to confirm a diagnosis of an ischaemic stroke. This is because the medication can make the bleeding that occurs in haemorrhagic strokes worse.

In some cases, procedures may be required to remove blood clots. Surgery may also be required to treat brain swelling and reduce the risk of further bleeding in cases of haemorrhagic strokes.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: info@LA-law.com | www.lesteraldridge.com



The information contained in this publication is for guidance only. No responsibility can be accepted by Lester Aldridge LLP (LA) or by external contributors for action taken as a result of the information contained in this publication. It is not intended to be an exhaustive statement of the law or a substitute for seeking specific advice. Photocopying or other reproduction without LA's permission is a breach of copyright. LA is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. A list of members is available on request. Registered Office: Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8EX. Registered in England OC321318.

Stroke treatment delay and negligence can lead to serious injury or long-term disability

Medical negligence in stroke cases can arise in circumstances where there is delay in diagnosis and treatment. In stroke cases, there is a short window of opportunity within which to administer medication to restore blood flow and thereby reduce damage. Sadly, all too frequently this window is missed.

Claiming compensation

Victims of medical negligence are often left suffering continued pain; they may require further medical treatment and are left worrying about the future for both themselves and their families. They may have suffered a loss of earnings and have significant care needs. They may require specialist interventions, therapies and support.

Clinical negligence compensation claims are designed to provide compensation to the victim for the physical and financial effects of their injuries. Damages if awarded will compensate for the injury and financial losses both past and future thereby meeting the costs of additional treatment, ongoing care, therapies and disability support along with any other financial losses. The aim being to put the victim back in the position they would have been but for the defendant's negligence so far as possible.

Support for patients affected by medical negligence related to stroke misdiagnosis

At Lester Aldridge we are highly experienced in investigating stroke claims and in taking forward successful compensation claims. We have access to a panel of medical experts who are leaders in their field.

We know how devastating a medical mistake can be. No amount of compensation can put things right but it can result in essential compensation to cover the cost of care, to support both you and your loved ones and meet your immediate and ongoing needs. Our experienced specialist lawyers utilise their expertise to maximize any compensation award.

If you have suffered injury, following a mistake made in medical treatment we can assist with your claim.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact our Personal Injury lawyers. Contact us by emailing: online.enquiries@la-law.com or calling 0344 967 0791.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: info@LA-law.com | www.lesteraldridge.com

