# We Can make it possible to survive stroke

When you hear the word “stroke”, images of older people who either don’t survive or may be paralyzed for life may come to mind. However, we know that stroke affects people of all ages, even young children. And although strokes can be deadly (nearly two million brain cells die each minute a stroke goes untreated), there is hope for patients who get to stroke centers quickly.

The vast majority of strokes — 87 percent — are ischemic strokes, caused by a blood clot in the brain. A minimally invasive, neuroendovascular stroke surgery known as thrombectomy — which uses a catheter to remove the clot — improves the chances that a patient will not only survive a severe stroke, known as an emergent large vessel occlusion (ELVO), but also will make a full recovery.

Some people with an ELVO stroke get lucky and go directly to a Level 1 stroke center, where neuointerventional care teams who are specially trained in stroke care generally and thrombectomy specifically can remove the clot quickly. Currently, less than 15 percent of patients experiencing an ELVO receive this life-saving and life-reclaiming stroke surgery. That’s because most stroke care systems have not caught up with improvements in treating stroke, and they are not as well coordinated as they need to be.

That means patients may be taken instead to the nearest hospital, which might not have the expertise needed to treat the most dangerous type of stroke. Even if they are eventually transferred to a Level 1 stroke center, precious time—and brains cells—have been lost.

Like Level 1 trauma centers, which have the resources required to handle all manner of traumatic injuries, Level 1 stroke centers have care teams available 24/7 who are specially trained to treat one organ — the brain — and do so on a regular basis. Get Ahead of Stroke is working to make it possible for all patients experiencing an ELVO to quickly access thrombectomy and improve their chance for a full recovery.

Specifically, the Get Ahead of Stroke campaign is calling for legislative changes that will require emergency medical responders in all 50 states to take stroke patients with ELVO to Level 1 stroke centers. So far, we have seen progress in Colorado, Tennessee, Arizona, Florida, Ohio, and Virginia.

[YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME] is proud to partner with the Get Ahead of Stroke campaign and make it possible for thousands more people to survive stroke every year.

To learn more and take the pledge to make stroke systems of care strong for you and your loved ones, visit www.getaheadofstroke.org.

*Get Ahead of Stroke is a national public education and advocacy campaign designed to improve systems of care for stroke patients. Founded in 2016 by the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS), today the campaign is supported by a coalition of organizations with the goal of securing the best possible outcomes for stroke patients by driving policy change and public awareness nationwide.*