

NWSS Stroke Thrombolysis Consent

"There is a treatment for your stroke called Alteplase that must be given within 4.5 hours after the stroke started. It is a 'clot-buster' drug. Overall, it is estimated that alteplase treatment is 10 times more likely to help than to harm eligible patients when given within 3 hours of stroke onset. The likelihood of benefit decreases with time, but treatment is still more likely to help than harm up to 4.5 hours after the stroke begins. Thus, the potential benefits of this treatment outweigh the risks. However, this treatment has a major risk, since it can cause severe bleeding in the brain in about 1 of every 15 patients. If bleeding occurs in the brain, it can be fatal. When used to treat large numbers of stroke patients, on average the potential benefits of this treatment outweigh the risks; however, in any individual patient it is a very personal decision."