

The efficacy of lumbar puncture in reducing intracranial pressure after stroke

ACTRN12623000970640

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	University of Newcastle
Enrollment	50 participants

Plain Language Summary

After a stroke caused by a blocked artery, the brain tries to protect itself by rerouting blood flow through smaller "bypass" vessels. When pressure inside the skull rises, these bypass vessels can fail, allowing the stroke to worsen and cause more brain damage. This trial is investigating whether relieving that pressure could protect these vessels and limit stroke severity.

The approach being tested is a lumbar puncture — commonly known as a spinal tap — a well-established procedure where a small amount of fluid is drawn from around the spinal cord. Researchers believe this can safely reduce the pressure in the skull after a stroke. This trial is the first step: checking whether a lumbar puncture can be performed safely in people who have just had a stroke.

You may be eligible if you are 18 or older, had an ischaemic (clot-caused) stroke within the last 24 hours, and were reasonably independent before your stroke. People on blood thinners, anticoagulants, or those with bleeding disorders are not eligible. This study is sponsored by the University of Newcastle.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (3)

- Patients with acute ischaemic stroke confirmed on clinical and imaging criteria with onset (or time last known to be well) within 24 hours.
- Patient's age is greater than or equal to 18 years of age.
- Premorbid mRS is less than or equal to 3.

Exclusion (11)

- Patients on anticoagulants and/or taking any antithrombotic agents (e.g., aspirin, clopidogrel). Patients taking any anticoagulant in the last 48 hours or warfarin within the last 5 days at any dose.
- Known bleeding diathesis and/or platelet count <100,000.
- Patients who have received a thrombolytic agent in the previous 72 hours or are planned to receive a thrombolytic agent.
- Intracranial haemorrhage (ICH) or other non-stroke diagnosis to explain the symptoms (e.g., tumour), or any intracranial space-occupying lesion that could pose a risk of brain herniation identified by baseline imaging.
- Basilar artery occlusion or posterior circulation stroke.

... and 6 more (see full listing online)

Locations (1 total)

John Hunter Hospital - New Lambton, NSW, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12623000970640>

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