

Please make sure you bring an up to date list of your medicine with you.

Following a TIA, you may have some or all of the following tests:

- A brain scan (CT or MRI)
- Blood pressure checks
- Blood tests
- ECG
- Carotid Doppler scan (an ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries to check blood flow)
- Echocardiogram

What about driving?


You must not drive for at least one month from the date of a TIA. You should not drive yourself to the TIA clinic and the Doctor will discuss when you can return to driving during your clinic visit.

Further Information


If you require any further information about the clinic please contact:

Sister Heather Hunter

Clinical Nurse Specialist

 **0141 314 7429**

For appointment information please contact the Stroke Secretary on:

 **0141 314 6678**

For general information about TIA or stroke please visit:

www.stroke.org.uk

Royal Alexandra Hospital



Information about the

Fast Track Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) Clinic



A Transient Ischaemic Attack TIA is often called a 'mini stroke'. The symptoms are very similar to those of a more severe stroke, but they do not last as long – anything from a few minutes up to 24 hours – and they resolve fully. As with a stroke, the symptoms are a sign that part of the brain is not getting enough blood.

You should never ignore a TIA.

Without treatment, about 1 in 4 people who have a TIA will go on to have a more severe stroke within a few years.

Symptoms of a TIA may include:

- Weakness, numbness, clumsiness or pins and needles affecting one side of the body or face
- Loss of vision in one eye, or in part of both eyes
- Slurred speech
- Difficulty finding the right words

A TIA or Stroke is a Medical Emergency

The FAST (Face, Arm, Speech, Time) helps people to quickly recognise the key symptoms of a TIA or stroke:

- F** Facial Weakness:
Can the person smile?
Is their mouth or eyelid drooping?
- A** Arm weakness:
Can the person raise both arms?
- S** Speech Problems: Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?
- T** Time: to call 999

What if your symptoms go away?

Don't just ignore your symptoms. Early assessment of TIA significantly reduces the risk of a major stroke, reduces dependency and saves lives.

If you or anyone you know has any of the symptoms of a TIA, you should contact your GP urgently or attend your local hospital's Emergency Department. The sooner your symptoms can be investigated the sooner the correct diagnosis can be made and the sooner treatment can be started.

If your GP or the Emergency Department Doctor seeing you thinks you may have had a TIA, they will start you on Aspirin or another drug

immediately, and they will urgently refer you to the Fast Track TIA Clinic.

The Fast Track Clinic

At the Fast Track Clinic a Consultant Physician with a special interest in strokes and TIAs will assess you. The clinic is open to adults of all ages, and takes place in the Geriatric Day Hospital. We will aim to see you within 4 to 7 days of referral, and we will contact you by telephone to confirm your appointment. **Please make sure that you give up to date contact details to the Doctor who is referring you to the clinic.**

If you have not heard from us within 48 hours of your referral, please contact us on 0141 314 6678.

What the Doctor will do and what tests to expect

The Doctor will take a full history of your symptoms, your past medical history and medications. If anyone else witnessed your symptoms, it would be very helpful if they could come to the clinic with you – all of this will help to distinguish between a TIA and other possible causes for your symptoms.