

## What can happen after a stroke?

Although stroke is a disease of the brain, it can affect the entire body.

- A common disability that results from stroke is complete paralysis on one side of the body, called *hemiplegia*. A related disability that is not as debilitating as paralysis is one-sided weakness or *hemiparesis*.
- Stroke may cause problems with thinking, awareness, attention, learning, judgment, and memory.
- Stroke survivors often have problems understanding or forming speech.
- A stroke can lead to emotional problems. Stroke patients may have difficulty controlling their emotions or may express inappropriate emotions. Many stroke patients experience depression.
- Stroke survivors may also have numbness or strange sensations. The pain is often worse in the hands and feet and is made worse by movement and temperature changes, especially cold temperatures.
- Recurrent stroke is frequent; about 25 percent of people who recover from their first stroke will have another stroke within 5 years.

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Source:

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke -  
<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/stroke/stroke.htm>