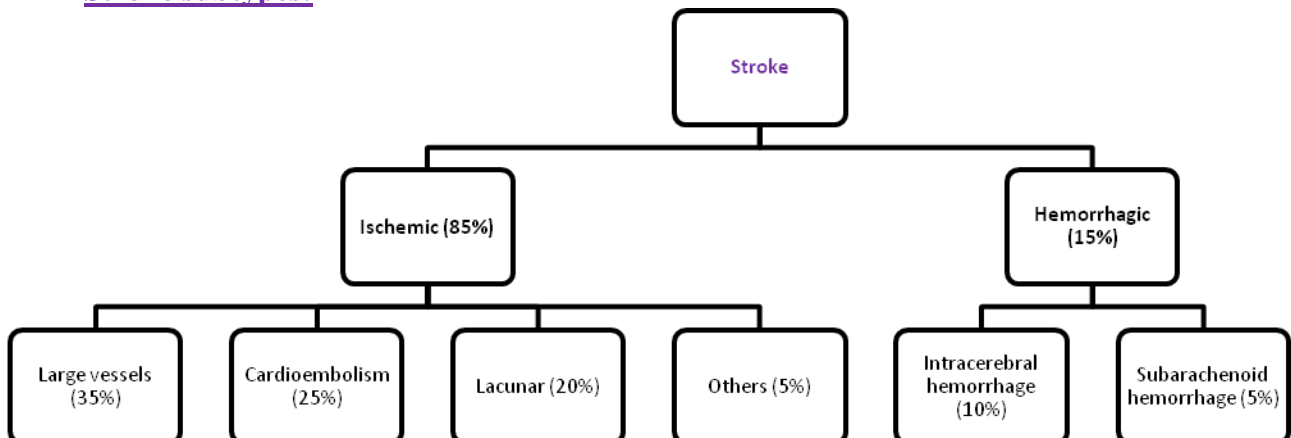




- **Definition of stroke:** a sudden interruption of cerebral blood flow leading to neurologic deficit.
- **Epidemiology of stroke:**
 - It is the 3rd leading cause of death in United States.
 - It is a leading cause of adult disability.
 - It is the most preventable among catastrophic conditions.
- **Signs and symptoms of stroke:**
 - Sudden severe headache and weakness.
 - Paralysis or numbness of the face, arm or legs (especially on one side of the body).
 - Confusion.
 - Loss of consciousness.
 - Difficulty of speech or understanding speech.
 - Trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- **What is the difference between stroke and transient ischemic attack (TIA)?**
 - **TIA:** it has the same signs and symptoms as stroke but they last less than 1-2 hours (although they might extend sometimes to 24 hours). TIA may occur only once in a person's lifetime (or more than once).
- **How to diagnose stroke?**
 - Brain CT or MRI
 - CT and MRI arteriogram.
 - Carotid ultrasound or carotid angiography.
 - ECG or ECHO
 - Blood tests.
- **Differential diagnosis of stroke:**
 - Chronic subdural hematoma.
 - Brain tumor.
 - Hypoglycemia.
 - Metabolic encephalopathy.
 - Postictal neurologic deficit.
- **Stroke subtypes:**



- **Risk factors for stroke:**
 - **Medical conditions:** hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, cardiac disease and atrial fibrillation.
 - **Behavioral factors:** smoking, alcohol and physical inactivity.
- **Management of stroke:**
 - **Thrombolytics (↓ risk of atherosclerotic stroke):** daily therapy with aspirin or clopidogrel.
 - **All patients with atherosclerosis regardless LDL baseline or blood pressure must receive statins and ACE inhibitors + thiazide diuretics (unless contraindicated).**
- **Behavioral management:** exercise, diet education, smoking and alcohol cessation.