

CYP2C19 genotype testing to guide clopidogrel use after ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack

Information for the public

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NICE has said that CYP2C19 genotype testing can be used to assess whether clopidogrel is a suitable antiplatelet drug for people who have had an ischaemic stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA).

A laboratory-based test should be used for CYP2C19 genotype testing.

When a laboratory-based test is not available, the Genedrive CYP2C19 ID Kit point-of-care test should be used.

When a laboratory-based test and the Genedrive CYP2C19 ID Kit point-of-care test are not available, the Genomadix Cube point-of-care test should be used.

Clopidogrel is an antiplatelet drug used after an ischaemic stroke or a TIA (sometimes called a 'mini stroke') to reduce the risk of blood clots that can cause further strokes or heart attacks. But clopidogrel does not work as well in some people if they have variations in a gene called CYP2C19 (known as 'loss-of-function variants'). CYP2C19 genotype testing can identify these people so they can be offered an alternative antiplatelet drug to lower their risk of blood clots. Testing can be done in a laboratory or at the point of care (for example, on a stroke ward).

Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other tests?
- What are the risks? How likely are they?
- What happens if I do not want to have the test?
- How long will the test take?
- Will I need, or be offered, sedation or anaesthesia? If so, will I have a choice?
- Will I be able to drive to and from the appointment?
- How do I get my test results? Will there be a follow-up appointment?

Information and support

The [NHS website on stroke](#) may be a good place to find out more.

[Stroke Association](#) (0300 3300 740) can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

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