

Middle meningeal artery embolisation for chronic subdural haematomas

Information for the public

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This procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there's not enough evidence to be sure how well it works or how safe it is.

Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

A subdural haematoma is an abnormal collection of blood (a clot) in the space between the brain and its surrounding membrane (subdural space). It's usually caused by a head injury. The blood collection puts pressure on the brain, which interferes with its functioning. If it is chronic, it means it's an old clot.

Under a general or local anaesthetic, a tube (catheter) is inserted through an artery in the thigh or forearm. A microcatheter is then put through it into an artery that supplies the membrane (middle meningeal artery). Particles are then injected to block (embolise) the middle meningeal artery. The aim is to cut off the blood supply to the membrane around the haematoma, after which the haematoma should go away on its own.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

The [NHS webpage on subdural haematoma](#) may be a good place to find out more.

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on interventional procedures recommendations](#) explains what only in research means.

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

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