

THE ANGELS INITIATIVE



The Angels Initiative is a unique healthcare initiative whose mission is to improve outcomes for stroke patients by increasing access to evidence-based care and optimizing treatment quality. Angels consultants in countries around the world encourage and support hospitals and EMS to implement practices that substantially increase stroke patients' chances of survival and living a disability-free life.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A STROKE?

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to the brain is disrupted as the result of a clot (ischemic stroke) or ruptured blood vessels (hemorrhagic stroke). This prevents brain tissue from receiving oxygen and nutrients. Brain cells begin to die within minutes. If treatment is delayed, the patient will lose an estimated 1.9 million neurons per minute, raising the risk for significant brain damage and other complications.

STROKE IS AN EMERGENCY

Ischemic (clotting) strokes account for 80 percent of all strokes. For the past more than 20 years it has been possible to treat ischemic stroke by dissolving the clot (an intravenous treatment called thrombolysis) or removing the clot (an endovascular treatment known as mechanical thrombectomy). According to guidelines published by the World Stroke Organization and the European Stroke Organization, treatment with thrombolysis must take place within 3 to 4.5 hours after symptom onset. It is therefore critical that patients reach stroke-ready hospitals as quickly as possible.

STROKE FACTS

- ▶ Stroke is the second leading cause of deaths and the number one cause of acquired disabilities, worldwide
- ▶ One in four adults over the age of 25 will have a stroke in their lifetime.
- ▶ 13.7 million people worldwide will have a stroke this year
- ▶ 5.5 million people will die as a result
- ▶ More than half of stroke patients end up with severe post-stroke outcomes
- ▶ 70% of all stroke patients are treated in hospitals that are not "stroke-ready"
- ▶ In Europe, every 30 minutes a stroke patient that could have been saved, dies or is permanently disabled, because they were treated in the wrong hospital

HOW THE ANGELS INITIATIVE WORKS

Angels consultants work with doctors, nurses and ambulance crews to build acute stroke networks, optimize treatment and diagnosis, and implement best practices. The Angels Initiative offers multidisciplinary stroke teams around the world access to Angels consultants, education, standardization tools, sharing best practices and quality monitoring processes.

BY NUMBERS*

- ▶ 8,700+ registered “stroke-ready” hospitals in over 155 countries
- ▶ 6,000+ of these hospitals are in low and middle income countries
- ▶ 140+ consultants working together with stroke teams in hospitals and EMS, as well as with national and regional stroke associations
- ▶ 2,000+ hospitals now treat stroke patients that have never done so before
- ▶ 10,600+ patients are treated daily in hospitals registered with Angels
- ▶ 3,800,000+ patients are treated in registered hospitals per year
- ▶ 16,000,000+ patients have been treated in Angels hospitals to date
- ▶ 50,000+ newly qualified stroke nurses
- ▶ 2,900+ hospitals from 90+ countries have started with quality monitoring, which is crucial for continuous improvement
- ▶ 5,400+ Angels awards have been given to hospitals and EMS that achieved extraordinary quality in stroke care
- ▶ 225,900+ medical professionals are registered on the Angels website and now have access to e-learning content provided in 17 different languages

100 ANGELS REGIONS (BY DECEMBER 2027)

Launched in 2024, the 100 Angels Regions strategy is a bold plan to make the world safe for stroke. An Angels region is one in which community awareness, EMS partnerships and acute hospital care are all optimized to deliver better outcomes for stroke patients. It requires hospitals, emergency services, local authorities and public educators to work together to provide safe hands for stroke patients throughout their communities.

The 100 Angels Regions strategy sets one goal for everyone and transforms collective good will into shared purpose.

ANGELS REGION CRITERIA

- ▶ Awareness education must meet an agreed target for FAST Heroes implementation in elementary schools in the region.
- ▶ EMS companies must achieve a minimum of gold in the EMS Angels Awards.
- ▶ Regional targets for hospitals coverage must be met to ensure the population is served by enough stroke-ready hospitals
- ▶ All hospitals in the stroke network must achieve at least gold status in the WSO/ESO Angels Awards.

Find out more: www.angels-initiative.com/content/angels-regions



FAST HEROES – TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT STROKE

FAST Heroes is an award-winning, schools-based program, designed to raise awareness of stroke symptoms and the need for speedy action. Launched in 2019, the goal of the program is for young children to share their knowledge of stroke with their parents and grandparents, ultimately resulting in greater public awareness of the signs of stroke and the critical importance of seeking help fast. Its superhero theme is enchanting children around the world, and its impact is turning some into real-life heroes. Stories are trickling in from all over the world of children who have used their knowledge to save their grandparents.

In its first 4 years FAST Heroes reached more than 10,000 schools worldwide. Over 23,000 teachers and 500,000 children have taken part in the program, bringing the campaign half way to its target of one million children.

Find out more: www.fastheroes.com

For the most up to date data and answers to any queries, please email: angelscoreteam@iqvia.com

