



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Press Release

Specialist at The Queen's Medical Center Offers Hope for Stroke Victims

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Honolulu—The Queen's Medical Center's Interventional Neuro-Radiologist Felix Song, M.D. and his treatment for stroke patients is helping patients to a greater recovery. One of the newest methods to treat stroke is to open the arteries to the brain to minimize the amount of brain infarction.

Dr. Song is the only endovascular neurosurgeon/interventional neuroradiologist in the state and he believes there are approximately 200 specialty-trained physicians in this procedure nationwide. And, The Queen's Medical Center is the only hospital in Hawaii with a biplane angiography suite, which expedites the treatment for acute stroke and specially trained staff to perform these types of procedures.

Before the introduction of endovascular neurosurgery in the mid 1990s, stroke victims, if treated within 3 hours of the onset of stroke were administered tPA intravenously. Intravenous treatment the IV medication spreads the tPA throughout the entire body. This new method allows patients to be treated up to 6 hours after a stroke and involves placing a small catheter directly against the blood clot that is blocking the brain artery and administer a concentrated dose of tPA right into the clot. This surgery also confirms that the artery has opened or not with treatment.

In contrast to invasive surgery, the endovascular procedure performed by Dr. Song involves a catheter inserted into an artery and then guided through the body to the blockage. TPA is administered through the catheter directly at the affected area, eliminating the transfer of the medication throughout the patient's entire body.

A multicenter trial PROACT II has shown that this approach is effective and was recently published in JAMA.

Knowing the signs of stroke is critical for treatment and preventing or minimizing paralysis. The public is encouraged to call The Queen's Medical Center Stroke Hotline at 537-7766 to request a "Know the Stroke Warnings"brochure.

In recognition of Stroke Awareness Month, Queen's is hosting a free community lecture, featuring staff Neurointensivist Deborah Green, M.D. Call 537-7177 for information.