Your child’s doctor is wondering whether your child may have had a stroke. A stroke occurs when there is a blockage (or “clot”) in one of the blood vessels supplying part of the brain. Although stroke is rare in children, it does occur. You are receiving this Information Sheet because we want you to know about a research study we are doing about stroke in children.

When a child shows the symptoms of a stroke, doctors do a brain scan to look for changes from the stroke and see if there is a blockage in a blood vessel in the brain. The brain scan will either be a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Magnetic Resonance Angiogram (MRA) or Computerized Tomography Scan (CT)/Computerized Tomography Scan angiogram (CTA). Your child is having one of these scans done right now. If the brain scan shows that your child has had a stroke, we will ask if you want your child to be in this research study.

Tissue Plasminogen Activator (“tPA”) is a drug that dissolves blood clots. Research studies done in adults with strokes have shown that when tPA is given to adults within 4 1/2 hours of stroke, they have a better chance of a good recovery. tPA is now standard treatment for many adult stroke patients who fit the right profile. However, tPA has been shown to cause bleeding in the brain in some adults who have received this drug for stroke.

We are now studying tPA in children with stroke. We want to find out if tPA is safe to give to children and how it works in children’s bodies. We want to find out if tPA can give children a better chance of a good recovery after they have a stroke.

If you choose for your child to be in this research study, your child would receive tPA through a vein, which will take an hour. We would collect some blood samples from your child several times during and after the tPA is given. We would watch to see if your child has any side effects from the tPA. We would collect medical information about your child after they receive the tPA. We would also gather information about how your child is doing 3 months following his/her stroke.

If your child qualifies for this study and if you are interested in having your child participate, we will discuss the study in detail with you. We would obtain your permission before any part of the study is done. Your decision to allow your child participate in the study, or not, will not impact the other care that your child receives. No one will be upset or angry if you do not wish to for your child to participate.

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