SSM Health DePaul Hospital

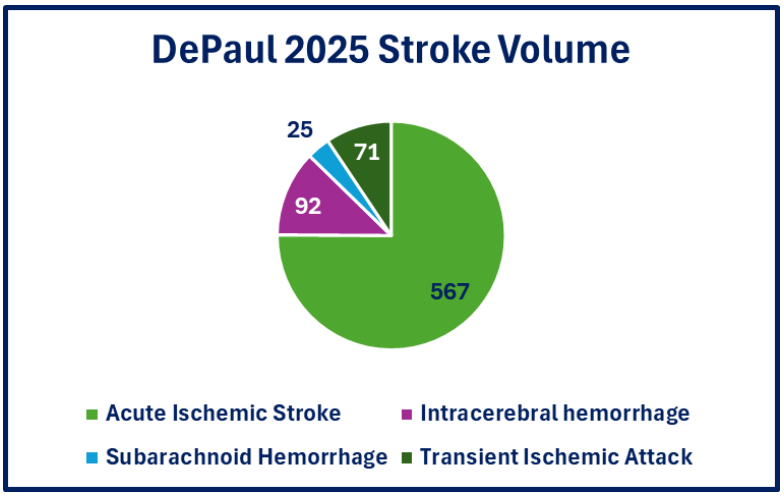
Stroke Quality Report

The Joint Commission has continuously designated SSM Health DePaul Hospital as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center since 2013. The hospital delivers a full spectrum of stroke care, ranging from outpatient services to emergency interventions, including thrombectomy procedures to remove brain clots that cause stroke.

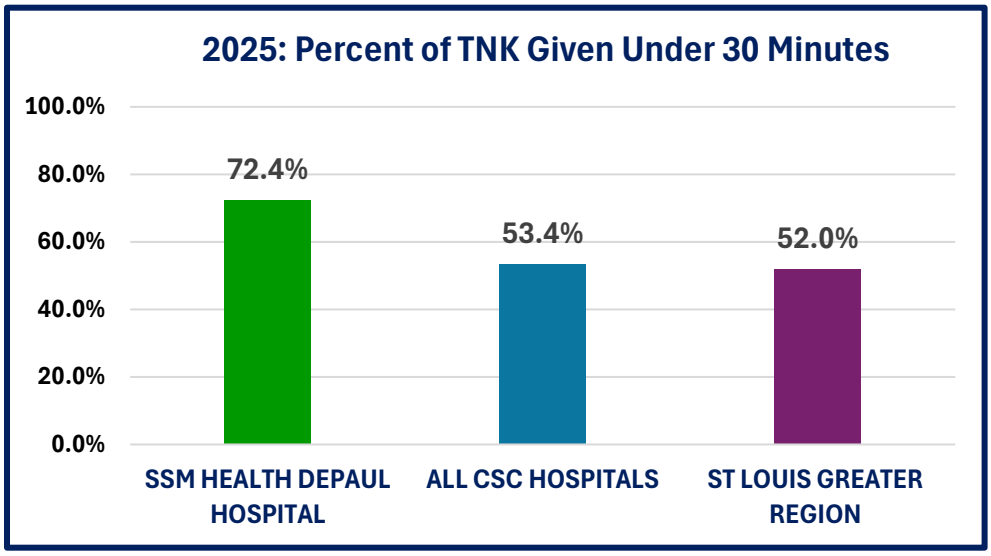
In 2014, SSM Health DePaul Hospital received the Time Critical Diagnosis Level I Stroke Center Certification from the State of Missouri. The hospital continues to uphold this designation by delivering advanced, high-acuity stroke care.

SSM Health DePaul Hospital earned top honors from the American Heart Association's *Get with The Guidelines*® program, including the Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award with *Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus, Advanced Therapy* recognition, and inclusion on the *Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll*.

We continuously track key performance metrics to drive improvement and uphold the highest standards of care. Below are some of those metrics:

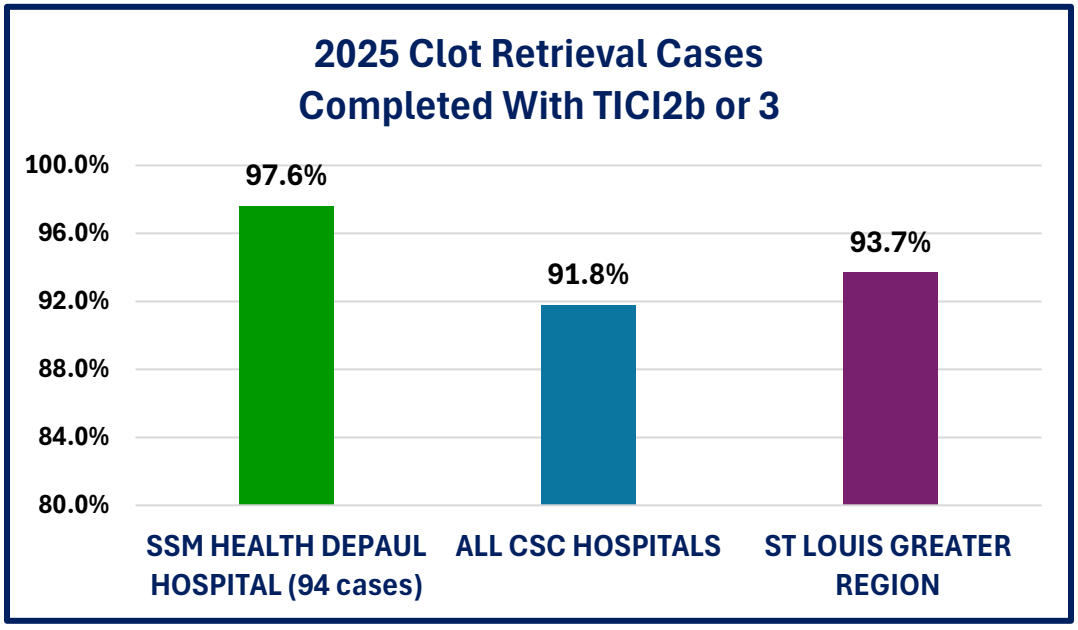


Tenecteplase (TNK) is a medication used to dissolve blood clots in the brain causing stroke. Timely administration is critical—earlier treatment significantly increases the likelihood of a patient returning to their baseline function. The goal is to administer TNK within 30 minutes of hospital arrival. In 2025, SSM Health DePaul Hospital achieved this benchmark in 72% of cases.



The national average data posted above is from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Get with the Guidelines-Stroke National Registry April 2026

Mechanical Thrombectomy (MT) is a procedure to remove the clot from a large artery in a brain that is causing a severe stroke. A TICI (Thrombolysis in Cerebral Infarction) score measures how effectively an artery in the brain is re-opened. A TICI 1 score indicates minimal blood flow, while a TICI 3 indicates excellent flow. TICI 2b or 3 is the goal for best outcomes.



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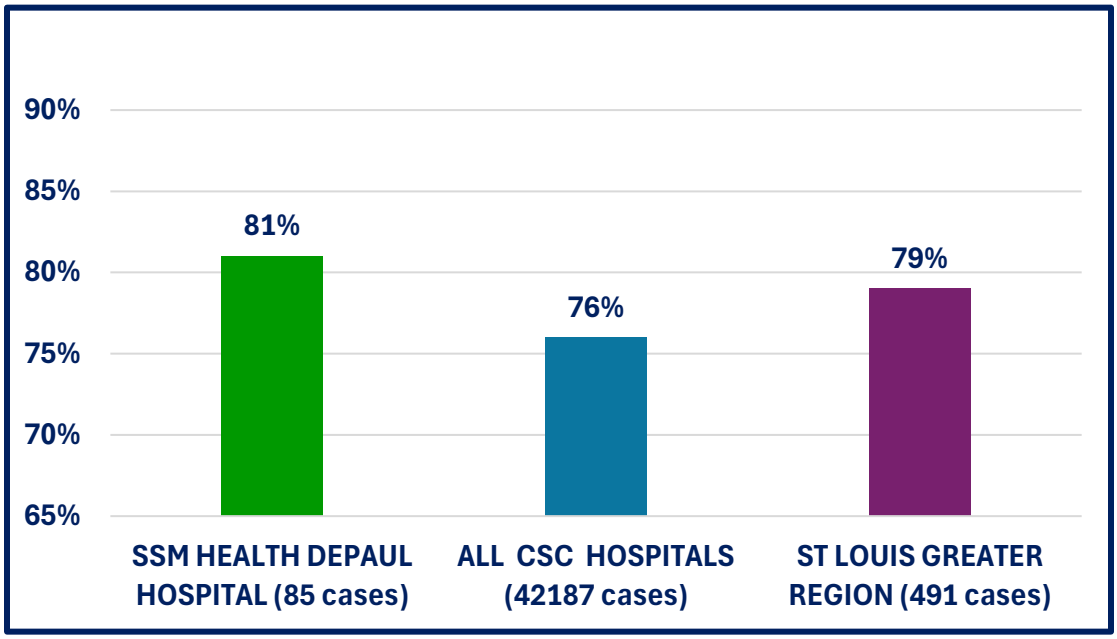
For patients having a severe stroke requiring thrombectomy, discharging to home or to a rehabilitation hospital is considered a good outcome for continued recovery. We celebrate stroke survivors who achieve this and anticipate their continued recovery from the stroke.



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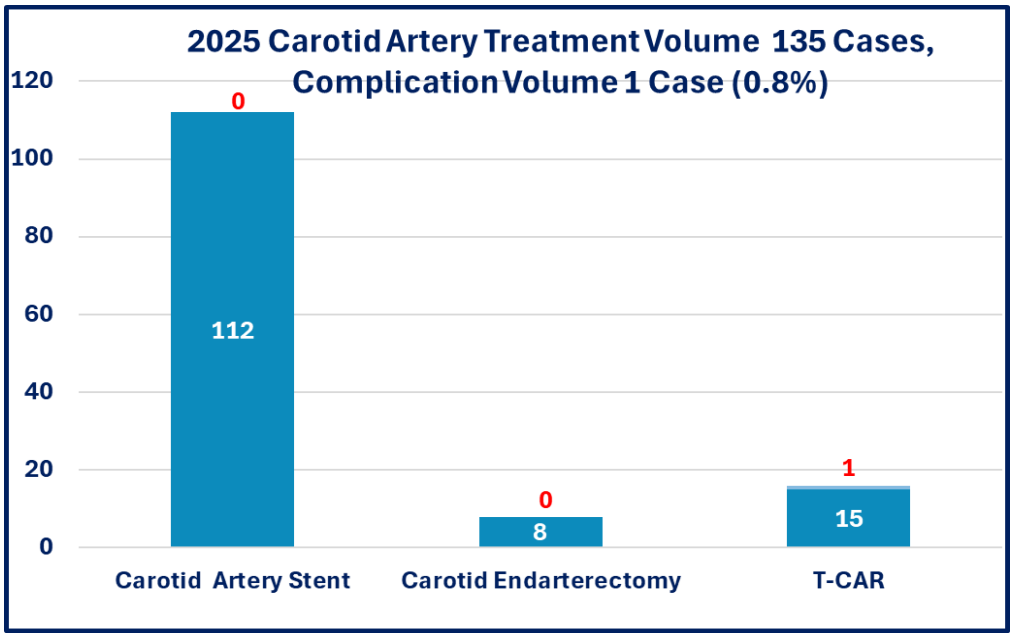
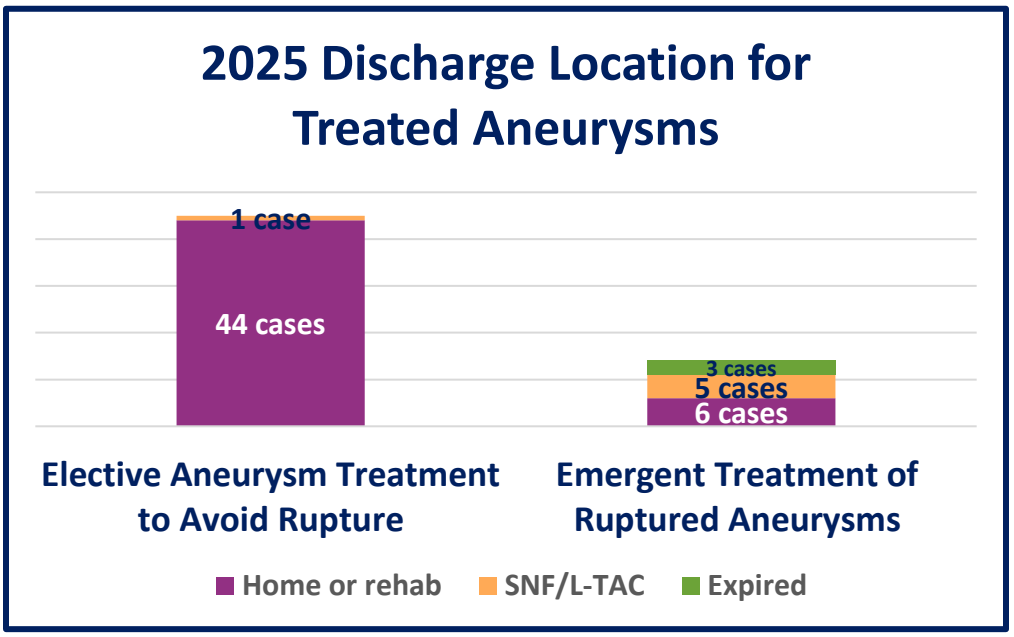
Carotid arteries in the neck can cause strokes if they become narrow or if clots lodge there. Treatment of a carotid artery to stop a stroke or to prevent a future stroke can be critical. Procedures to treat carotid narrowing (stenosis) include Carotid Endarterectomy, Trans-Carotid Artery Revascularization (T-CAR), and Carotid Artery Stenting, and are done electively in healthy patients or emergently to stop an acute stroke.

Complications can occur with any procedure. We monitor all complications and strive to minimize them in the future. The number of complications that we observed in 2025 related to carotid procedures are listed in red below.



An aneurysm is a bubble on a blood vessel. If an aneurysm in the brain bursts, it causes a severe hemorrhage known as a subarachnoid hemorrhage. This requires emergency treatment of the aneurysm and up to several weeks in the hospital for recovery. DePaul Hospital treats ruptured aneurysms with state of the art, minimally invasive devices to permanently prevent aneurysm re-rupture.

DePaul Hospital also treats cerebral aneurysms electively before rupture to reduce the risk of a subarachnoid hemorrhage. In most cases, these patients discharge home the next day.



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