Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush: Stroke-Neurosurgery

The Stroke-Neurosurgery Subspecialty Clinic at Rush provides patients the opportunity to meet with stroke neurologists and neurosurgeons who offer a wide range of medical and surgical options to prevent and treat cerebrovascular disease.

This comprehensive approach to care is particularly important for patients with cerebrovascular disease, since vascular pathology can be in locations that increase the risk of stroke. Our Stroke-Neurosurgery Subspecialty Clinic allows patients to work with both neurologists to identify medical treatments and with neurosurgeons to discuss surgical approaches simultaneously.

About 85% of strokes are ischemic (clot-based) and 15% are hemorrhagic (bleeding). Since both types of strokes can be prevented, our approach to care includes an emphasis on identifying patients who are at higher risk for strokes. An ideal candidate for our clinic is any patient with narrowing of the arteries in the brain or with consideration of Moyamoya disease. We work to prevent their strokes before they happen in order to reduce mortality, as well as the physical impact stroke can have on patients and their families.

A hallmark of our clinic is giving patients a consolidated, unified approach to their treatment plan, helping them weigh the risks and benefits of all treatment options. Our providers with expertise in stroke and cerebrovascular disease work collaboratively to evaluate patients, create a comprehensive treatment plan and educate patients and their families in one convenient clinic location. We also work in partnership with referring providers, communicating with them about their patient’s diagnosis and treatment plan, to provide seamless, end-to-end care.

**Why refer your patients here?**

The neurology and neurosurgery program at Rush is ranked No. 4 in the nation and best in the Midwest by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Nationally recognized stroke care: Rush University Medical Center, Rush Copley Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital have been recognized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association with the Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award. In addition, Rush University Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital have received the Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll Award. These awards recognize that Rush hospitals provide timely and effective stroke care that is among the best in the country.

Comprehensive care: Rush is certified by the Joint Commission as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, the most demanding stroke certification designed for those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions Treated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arteriovenous malformations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intracranial atherosclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyamoya disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brain CTA, MRA and MRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid ultrasound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral angiograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamox perfusion studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcranial doppler ultrasound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carotid angioplasty and stenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid endarterectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral for stereotactic radiosurgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revascularization of the blood supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stereotactic microsurgery for AVMs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombectomy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To refer patients or request a consult, call (312) 942-4500.
Meet our team

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Laurel Cherian, MD, MS  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

James Conners, MD, MS, FAHA  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Stephan Munich, MD  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Nicholas Osteraas, MD, MS  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Sarah Song, MD, MPH, FAAN  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Rima Dafer, MD, MPH, FAHA  
Director of the Comprehensive Outpatient Cerebrovascular Diseases  
Clinic at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Alejandro Vargas, MD, MS  
Lead vascular neurologist, Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush  
Lead vascular neurologist, Stroke-Cardiology Subspecialty

Deborah Lynch, CNS, APRN  
Board certifications: Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Board Certified (AGCNS-BC)  
Stroke-Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN)

Locations

Rush University Medical Center  
1725 W Harrison St.  
Suite 1118  
Chicago, IL 60612

To refer patients or request a consult, call (312) 942-4500.

For general inquiries regarding the Comprehensive Stroke Clinics at Rush, call (312) 942-4500.  
Website: rush.edu/services/cerebrovascular-surgery-services