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Health newsfeed for Monday, July 1, 2013

**HEADLINE: BRAIN ATTACK** 

ANCHOR LEAD: STROKES ARE AN EMERGENCY, ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Brain attack is terminology for a stroke that hasn't quite taken hold, but it should, a recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association shows. That's because outcomes from tens of thousands of people who suffered stroke were much improved the sooner a clot-busting drug called tPA was used. Richard Leigh, a stroke expert at Johns Hopkins, comments.

LEIGH: The main points that came out of it were that the notion that we treat patients with acute ischemic stroke the better, in terms of them being less likely to have complications and more likely to have a good outcome. It also validated some of the numbers that we quote to patients. The risk of having a hemorrhage with tPA appear to be about 5% and the probability of having an improvement or a good outcome is on the order of about 30% or 33% in this study. :29

So seek medical attention at the earliest sign of a brain attack. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.