

The DUSK Trial

Endovascular thrombectomy for distal medium vessel occlusion stroke

Why DUSK

Distal and medium vessel occlusions account for 25 to 40% of ischemic strokes, yet there is no universal treatment strategy. Deficits can look mild on a scale and still be disabling, while thrombectomy in smaller, more distal arteries carries its own risk. DUSK is designed to settle the question with randomized evidence.

Trial at a glance

Design	Phase III, randomized 1:1, multicenter, open-label trial
Population	Distal medium vessel occlusion ischemic stroke within 12 hours of last seen well
Comparison	Endovascular thrombectomy versus standard medical therapy alone
Primary endpoint	Ordinal shift across all levels of the modified Rankin Scale at 90 days
Sample size	584 patients
Sites	Up to 50, starting in the U.S., with planned international expansion
Status	Active and enrolling
Registration	ClinicalTrials.gov NCT05983757

Leadership and partners

Global Principal Investigator	Raul G. Nogueira, MD, UPMC Stroke Institute
Clinical Coordinating and Data Managing Center	University of Pittsburgh
European Coordinating Center	University of Basel
Imaging Core Lab	Brainstorme, Inc.
Funding	Stryker Neurovascular

How to join

Sites interested in DUSK are welcome to write to doheimmf@upmc.edu. We will be in touch about site selection and activation, and share the full protocol with prospective sites.