

# Brainstem stroke syndrome

A [brainstem stroke](#) syndrome falls under the broader category of stroke syndromes, or specific symptoms caused by vascular injury to an area of the brain (for example, the lacunar syndromes). As the brainstem contains numerous cranial nuclei and white matter tracts, a stroke in this area can have a number of unique symptoms depending on the particular blood vessel that was injured and the group of cranial nerves and tracts that are no longer perfused. Symptoms of a brainstem stroke frequently include sudden [vertigo](#) and [ataxia](#), with or without [weakness](#). [Brainstem stroke](#) can also cause [diplopia](#), slurred speech, and decreased level of [consciousness](#). A more serious outcome is locked-in syndrome

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