

Embolism

An embolism is the lodging of an embolus, which may be a [blood clot](#), fat globule, gas bubble or foreign material in the bloodstream. This can cause a blockage in a blood vessel.

Such a blockage (vascular occlusion) may affect a part of the body distanced from the actual site of the embolism. This is in contrast to a [thrombus](#), which causes a blockage at the site of origin.

It was not until the mid-nineteenth century, however, that the contributions of [Rudolf Ludwig Karl Virchow](#), including his descriptions of the phenomena he called “[embolism](#)” and “[thrombosis](#)” as well as the origins of [ischemia](#), changed the understanding of [stroke](#).

see [Air embolism](#)

see [Fat embolism](#)

see [Pulmonary embolism](#)

see [Septic embolism](#)

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