# FAST

FAST is an global acronym that is used for stroke recognition.
Face, Arm, and Speech are the most common symptoms for stroke.
These symptoms apply to all types of strokes:
ischemic, hemorrhagic, and transient ischemic attack (TIA).

## FAST Assessment

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|---|---|---|
| **FACE** | **Unilateral facial droop** | Ask the patient to smile |
| **ARM** | **Unilateral arm/leg weakness or drift*** | Ask the patient to raise both of their arms, or walk a short distance |
| **SPEECH** | **Slurred speech, difficulty expressing words, word finding, or difficulty understanding** | Ask the patient to repeat a simple phrase or follow a simple command |
| **TIME** | **Time of last known well** | Ask when was the last time someone saw or spoke with the patient before symptoms started or they were at their baseline state of health? |

## Drift Assessment*

Ask patient "Hold your hands up in front of you like you are holding a pizza box"

Ask patient "Close your eyes while I count to 10"

Count to 10 out loud

During the count down, assess the patient for upward or downward unilateral movement (drift) of either arm
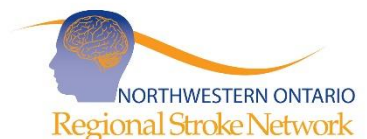
## Less Common Signs of Stroke

Sudden vision changes (double or loss of); sudden severe headache, unilateral numbness, balance problems (ataxia).

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