



ESOC 2026 Curtain Raiser

Get ready for **ESOC 2026 in Maastricht!** We're excited to present groundbreaking trials that will change clinical practice in acute stroke and secondary prevention.

Day 1: Optimising Reperfusion Therapy in Acute Ischaemic Stroke

Day 1 kicks off with a strong focus on making acute interventions smarter and more effective.

- **Breaking the Clog:** The **EXTEND-IA DNASE** trial will reveal whether dornase alfa can act as a powerful sidekick to traditional thrombolysis in large vessel strokes.
 - **The Pressure is On:** The **MASTERSTROKE** trial tackles one of the most debated questions in the angio suite: what is the "sweet spot" for systolic blood pressure while a patient is under general anaesthesia?
 - **Maximising Reperfusion:** The **TECNO** trial investigates whether adjunct tenecteplase in patients with incomplete endovascular reperfusion can improve reperfusion grade and clinical outcomes.
 - **The Big Chill:** Two major trials from China, **CHILL-ART** and the **Selective Intra-arterial Cooling** study, will provide definitive data on whether "cooling the brain" during thrombectomy can actually freeze infarct progression.
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Day 2: Expanding the Frontiers of Thrombectomy

On the second day, the spotlight shifts to the "tougher" cases – distal vessels, large infarcts, mild symptoms, and late arrivals.

- **Seeing the Bigger Picture:** The **ATLAS Collaboration** will present a massive individual patient data meta-analysis of six randomised trials, finally giving us a clear picture of mechanical thrombectomy's role in "large core" ischaemic strokes.
- **"Small", "Late" and "Distal" Challenges:** Professor Jianmin Liu presents two blockbuster trials: **LATE-MT**, on thrombectomy in the extended time window, and **MILD-MT**, on endovascular intervention for minor symptoms. Moreover, results from **DISTALS** will provide insight into the efficacy of a novel, adjustable low-profile stent retriever for distal and medium vessel occlusions.



- **Navigating Tandem Lesions:** The **CASES** trial from the Netherlands will provide much-needed clarity on carotid artery stenting during the acute phase of a stroke.
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Day 3: Beyond the Basics: Rare Targets and New Molecules

The final day of plenaries dives into specialised conditions and innovative pharmacological combinations.

- **A Win for Cognition?** The **TRIDENT** trial looks at whether intensive blood pressure lowering can prevent dementia and cognitive decline after intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH).
 - **Expanding Thrombolysis:** The **TNK MEVO** trial will look at extending the time window of tenecteplase for distal vessel occlusions.
 - **The Treatment Cocktail:** Results from **ATTRACTION**, **ATILA**, several Chinese trials using ticagrelor, the **GREEN** trial and the **GALLOP-2** trial will define the "best medical recipe" with tirofiban, ticagrelor, glenzocimab or GLP-1 receptor agonists to reperfuse occluded vessels, maintain vessel patency, or achieve neuroprotection during or after intravenous thrombolysis or endovascular thrombectomy.
 - **Rare but Critical:** The **EXCOA-CVT** trial will present 24-month results on extending anticoagulation for cerebral venous thrombosis, a vital update for a condition that often lacks long-term data.
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Last but not Least

In addition to the trials mentioned above, ESOC 2026 will also report on a Spanish trial investigating **optimisation of cerebral perfusion** after successful endovascular therapy for ischaemic stroke, updated results from the **OCEANIC-STROKE** trial on asundexian, and the results from the **AVERT DOSE** trial, which assesses the optimal timing of mobility training in ischaemic stroke. Moreover, the **CRAFT** trial explores intensive blood pressure control as a primary prevention measure for atrial fibrillation patients, while the **COMMITTS** trial looks at motivational interviewing therapy after stroke.

These sessions represent the culmination of years of global research in stroke. Once again, ESOC 2026 is set to redefine how we treat stroke – from the ambulance to the long-term clinic. We hope to see you all there!