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## Far from home: making stroke diagnosis more powerful at rural hospitals

Kevin J. Chung

Western University, [jchun269@uwo.ca](mailto:jchun269@uwo.ca)

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## **FAR FROM HOME: making stroke diagnosis more powerful at rural hospitals**

Imagine you're on vacation in a rural community and your loved one suffers a stroke. Life-saving treatments for stroke are available, but the rural hospital was short-staffed and lacked the required expertise to identify a treatable stroke. This is the devastating reality for over 30% of all stroke patients in Ontario. Recent advancements in stroke diagnosis have made automated treatment recommendations possible using advanced x-ray CT scans and computer software that analyzes a stroke victim's brain blood flow. Though this technology seems essential at under-staffed rural hospitals, it is not yet readily available because obtaining the advanced CT scan requires trained technicians. To address this important limitation, we developed a new technique that allows simple routine CT scans to be used to analyze brain blood flow and make reliable treatment recommendations. Our innovative technique has the potential to save your loved one's life – no matter where they are.