



STROKE

Not All Emergency Departments Are Alike

DMC Detroit Receiving has the only two interventional neurologists in the state. With DMC's Stroke Team One, they provide treatment 2 1/2 times faster than the national average.

If you or someone you know has a stroke, the advice has always been: get to a hospital right away. Early treatment is the best way to ensure survival with fewer long-term effects, such as paralysis or speech loss.

But you also must go to a hospital that can give the care you need. Not all offer the range of care provided at DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital, metro Detroit's first certified primary stroke center.

Lonnie Lane, 67, of St. Clair Shores, learned that lesson. When Lane's wife noticed his left cheek sagging

one morning in November 2008, she called an ambulance. At a local hospital the staff called Receiving for advice, then sent Lane there for treatment.

Lane's care started in Receiving's Level I trauma center. "When a patient arrives with symptoms of stroke, our stroke team is immediately notified," explains Andrew Xavier, M.D., an interventional neurologist and director of neuroendovascular services. "The team's ability to swiftly assess, diagnose and treat patients decreases the likelihood of permanent disability for the patient."

EXPERIENCE MATTERS.



Lonnie Lane survived a stroke and thanks to the doctors at Detroit Receiving Hospital and advanced technology, did not suffer permanent brain injury.

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For Lane, an emergency MRI showed a large artery in his neck that feeds his brain was blocked. Immediately, Dr. Xavier and his team performed a procedure to remove the blockage and insert a stent to keep the artery open. Lane had an additional blockage of a blood vessel inside the brain, which was treated with another stent.

catheter and the Merci Clot Retriever. This tiny coil is threaded through the blood vessels into the brain to grab and remove the blood clot.

Lane spent about a week in Receiving's Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit – a specialized facility that not all hospitals have. After a few days, Lane was transferred to DMC Rehabilitation Insti-

without assistance and has regained his driver's license. More important, he has regained his health.



DMC Stroke Team One's Dr. Andrew Xavier, interventional neurologist, led the team of stroke physicians (opposite page), who saved young Ron Noble's life and his quality of life by avoiding permanent injury to his brain.

“A stroke team’s ability to swiftly assess, diagnose and treat patients decreases the likelihood of permanent disability for the patient.”

Dr. Andrew Xavier

Although Lane didn't need it, the “clot-busting” drug tPA is available at Receiving. Detroit Receiving is one of the few hospitals in the area able to administer this powerful drug directly into the brain. Other advanced treatment options include devices to remove blood clots such as the Penumbra suction

tute of Michigan for inpatient rehab. He then completed several months of outpatient rehab. After 26 years working in the Detroit Police Department and 15 years as a Wayne County Sheriff Deputy, Lane has since retired. Although he went home from the hospital using a wheelchair, he now walks

TECHNOLOGY MATTERS.

KNOWING THE SYMPTOMS OF STROKE CAN HELP SAVE LIVES. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on only one side of the body
- Sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Not all signs occur with every stroke. Even if the signs go away, don't ignore them.

Know when the first symptoms started. You'll be asked this question at the hospital.



For a free wallet-sized card or a magnet listing stroke symptoms, call (313) 745-3113.

STROKES *Not Just for Adults*



THE HOSPITAL MATTERS.

You could expect a variety of injuries to happen at a high school football practice. But you would never expect a 14-year-old boy to have a stroke. But that is what happened to Ron Noble III this spring at Cass Technical High School in Detroit.

While running sprints in the gym, Noble's left side began to stiffen up. At DMC Harper University Hospital, it was confirmed that he was having a stroke.

"The stroke teams at Harper, Receiving and Sinai-Grace have protocols established so that no time is wasted in diagnosing and treating the stroke patient," Dr. Xavier says. "This helped us get a medication called tPA to Ron in time."

tPA is a clot-dissolving drug that must be given within three hours of stroke symptoms starting. This makes it important that patients recognize symptoms and get to the hospital quickly.

Following a craniotomy to reduce swelling in the brain, Ron progressed to rehabilitation. The Receiving Stroke Team One saved him from the stroke, and then, they saved the rest of his life. Based on national data, DMC hospitals consistently deliver tPA two and a half times faster than the average. The golden hour, the first hour, is most important to treatment benefits.

The swelling in his brain has gone down and Noble's rehabilitation continues – often involving tossing a ball.

Above: The doctors on Ron's stroke care team: front row: Ron Noble II and III. Back row, left to right: Dr. Mark Hoperich; Dr. Sandeep Mittal; Tangi Noble, Ron's mother; Dr. Ramesh Madhavan; Dr. Greg Norris; and Dr. Aniel Majjho.



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