

Resources

Many web sites offer helpful information about strokes and related topics, including the following:

American Stroke Association

www.strokeassociation.org

This is an excellent comprehensive site. It has special sections on “life after stroke” and describes steps to decreasing the risk of stroke. It also lists programs and nationwide events to help educate the public about many aspects of stroke.

American Stroke Foundation

<http://www.americanstroke.org>

Their mission statement: “To support stroke survivors, their families, caregivers and friends by providing resources, services, education and information that improves their quality of life.”

A very helpful organization for all those groups mentioned in the above mission statement. There are numerous useful links on this web site.

National Stroke Association

www.stroke.org

This site provides current information on various research protocols and “breaking news” related to stroke therapy. It also includes some wonderful survivor stories.

Web MD

<http://my.webmd.com/content/Article/54/61583.htm>

This site has good graphics and shows the differences between a hemorrhagic and an ischemic stroke. It also presents a good graphic of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Also search Google: my.webmd.com, click on the Web MD Search Results: Understanding Stroke – The Basics.

Cleveland Clinic

<http://www.clevelandclinic.org/heartcenter/pub/guide/disease/carotid/stroke.htm>

This site offers helpful general stroke information and a list of stroke-related organizations.

PFO – Patent Foramen Ovale

<http://www.nmtmedical.com>

NMT Medical makes a PFO closure device: the Cardioseal™. This web site has excellent graphics and relates the history of this device.

More information about PFOs is available at the Cleveland Clinic Heart Group’s web site. <http://www.clevelandclinic.org/heartcenter/pub/guide/disease/congenital/pfo/htm>

The Merci® Retriever

<http://www.concentric-medical.com>

Concentric Medical is the company that developed the Merci® Retriever discussed in these stories. Patients sometimes refer to it as “the corkscrew.” It is the only mechanical device approved for use in clot retrieval in the brain. The web site has excellent graphics and relates the history of this device. The animation at the base of the home page shows how the “corkscrew” penetrates and retrieves a clot.

Blood Supply to the Brain

There are several excellent sites detailing the specific arteries to the brain. They are shown in their relative positions to other vital arteries, which may take over if occluded. Some 3-D depictions make it easier to visualize this complicated maze.

<http://www.csuchico.edu/~pmccaff/syllabi/CMSD%20320/362unit11.html>

This site shows very good details of the anterior and posterior cerebral arteries and the areas they supply.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/imagepages/17133.htm>

This site shows the blood supply of the middle cerebral artery in special perspective (coronal section).

Cardiovascular Consultants P.C. of Kansas City

<http://www.cc-pc.com/echo.htm>

This site describes some of the tests mentioned in the stories, including the transesophageal echo cardiogram (TEE), accompanied by actual images. An abnormal “bubble” test is one of the dynamic images featured. This test is especially useful in detecting a PFO.

Stroke Centers

What makes a stroke center a stroke center? The link listed below describes stroke center development and certification. This is a very comprehensive site; in particular, see the Brain Attack Coalition initiatives.

<http://www.stroke-site.org/coalition/html>

Or google: the brain attack coalition.

Additional Information

Several excellent stroke associations offer volumes of information to professionals and patients alike:

<http://www.stroke.org.uk/index.html>

<http://www.internationalstroke.org>

“When the first responders took me from my home, I was paralyzed on my whole right side – I had no control – I had no voice. The Stroke Team saved my life; they were wonderful !”

– Laurel Hansen

“Get to the hospital right away! Don't worry about your health insurance. And if you are in Kansas City, get to the Stroke Center at Saint Luke's Hospital.”

– Marge Schlosberg

“My left arm was strapped down because it was paralyzed (from the stroke), so I could not move it no matter how hard I tried. I did not realize they were doing anything to me but they were (the Stroke Team). And then it was like they threw a switch! A few minutes earlier I couldn't move my left arm at all, and now all of a sudden I had complete movement. It was the most incredible feeling in my life! I was able to wipe my nose with my left hand. It was like they plugged in an electric cord. It was quite a surprise !”

– John Kelly

“(When we learned that Jim had had a stroke) we wanted to go to Saint Luke's Stoke Center because they have experience, they have trials, and they have specialists. They have round-the-clock teams standing by ready whenever you need them. At 10:30 on Saturday night, Saint Luke's Stroke Team was ready to go. You do not want to play with stroke in a hospital that is not “stroke ready.” It's just like restaurants. You do not want to go to a restaurant with no cars in the parking lot; you want to go to a restaurant with a lot of cars in the parking lot.”

– Kay Weir

“When the stroke hit me, I didn't notice anything. I didn't notice that my speech was slurred and that I was drooling. I mean, there was no pain, discomfort, dizziness or weakness. I didn't know anything was happening to me.”

– “Shotgun” Jackson