

# Beebe Healthcare Offers Advanced Care for Stroke Patients

Each year, more than 140,000 people die from stroke. Those who survive a stroke are often left with ongoing disabilities.

A stroke happens, in most cases, when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted. This prevents the brain from getting the blood flow and nutrients it needs. It only takes a matter of minutes before brain cells start to die. This is why medical professionals often say, "Time is brain."

When a stroke is suspected, the No. 1 goal of medical personnel is to quickly get the patient to an emergency room and start treatment.

## New Technology Advances Stroke Care

Since 2016, Beebe Healthcare has been a member of the Jefferson Health Neuroscience Network. Recently, it was announced that the partnership will expand to include a robotic teleconferencing unit in Beebe's Emergency Department.

The Jefferson Expert Teleconsulting (JET) unit is the region's first university-based, high-tech mobile robot conferencing system for acute stroke. The JET robot provides network hospitals with 24/7 access to vascular neurologists and neurosurgeons for emergency consultative services. The goal is to complement the care provided by community neurologists or emergency physicians to patients with



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Shown with the Jefferson stroke robot in the Beebe Emergency Department are (l-r): Loretta Ostroski, director of patient care services; Susan Mross, clinical Emergency Department nurse; Sue Ann Newsham, nurse manager, Beebe Emergency Department; and Dr. Nick Perchiniak, Emergency Department physician.

symptoms of a stroke.

"This takes our relationship with Jefferson to a new level," says Lynn Toth, DNP, MSN, NP-C, RN, cardiovascular medical specialist at Beebe. "It will be a great resource for both our medical teams and for the community. The program gives us nearly immediate access to renowned stroke experts, which can only improve the way we care for our community."

## Connecting to Neurology Experts

The JET protocol starts at Beebe. When Beebe medical teams suspect a stroke, they call the Jefferson Health Neuroscience Network to reach the on-call neurologist.

The neurologist then connects with the Beebe

team via a mobile robotic system (like a video chat, but more secure) in the Emergency Department. The mobile robotic system allows the neurologist to speak directly to the team, the patient, and the family members to gather information. It also allows the Jefferson neurologist to review tests and medical history.

"This system allows us to be more efficient when treating stroke patients," says Nick Perchiniak, MD, of Sussex Emergency Associates, the team providing care in Beebe's Emergency Department. "When it comes to stroke, time is brain, so it is very important to be able to diagnose and treat a stroke patient quickly. The Jefferson

robot allows us to have quick access to neurology experts."

The JET technology will be available to patients coming into Beebe's emergency departments and to those already admitted to the hospital.

Together, the Beebe and Jefferson medical teams are able to make decisions about the best care plan for the patient, including transport to Jefferson, if necessary.

"This is going to be especially helpful at our new South Coastal Health Campus Emergency Department," Dr. Perchiniak says. "We will have the mobile robot there as well so that if a patient comes in with a possible stroke, we can get answers rapidly and get the patient the help they need."

From Beebe's South Coastal Health Campus, patients could be transported by ambulance or helicopter, depending on what's most appropriate, to either Jefferson or to Beebe's Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus.

*Beebe Healthcare is located in downtown Lewes with multiple outpatient locations across southern Delaware. Learn more: [beebehealthcare.org](http://beebehealthcare.org).*

  
CREATING THE NEXT  
GENERATION  
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