

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF A STROKE

DETECTING A STROKE EARLY ON IS VITAL TO BOTH RECOVERY AND TREATMENT. LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE FROM BAPTIST HEALTH.

"Stroke is a medical emergency caused by a blocked blood vessel in the brain. As far as treatments for stroke, there are two main ones. They do the same thing. The medical treatment is called tPA [tissue plasminogen activator]. It's a medicine that we give that breaks up blood clots. It's given in an IV and it breaks up clots in the brain. There's another treatment called embolectomy, where a surgeon actually goes in directly and pulls the clot out of the brain," says James B. Thornton, M.D., Neurologist and Stroke Medical Director at Baptist Health Louisville. "The most important thing to know about a stroke is that it progresses rapidly. The things that we use to treat a stroke are very time limited. They have to be given very quickly to help someone. The most important thing to do is call 911 to get to the hospital as quick as you can."

Recognizing the warning signs of stroke are key to getting help and minimizing the damage that can occur. The American Stroke Association provides a memory aid called **BE FAST**.



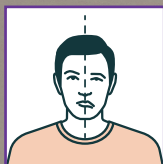
B IS FOR BALANCE.

Is there a sudden loss of balance or inability to walk or stand?



E IS FOR EYES.

Is there sudden blurred vision, trouble with double vision, or loss of vision?



F IS FOR FACE.

Is there facial droop or trouble smiling?



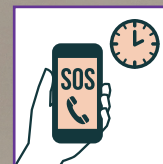
A IS FOR ARMS.

Is there weakness on either side?



S IS FOR SPEECH.

Is there trouble talking or understanding speech?



T IS FOR TIME.

This is critical because all treatments are time limited.

IF ANY OF THESE SIGNS ARE PRESENT, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

"For stroke treatment, the most important thing is to come to a facility with multidisciplinary care. At Baptist Health Louisville, we have a team that includes emergency room physicians, stroke neurologists, radiologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional radiologists who can help both with assessing the stroke and getting you the best treatment. When we're able to act fast, restore the blood flow, and get people back to normal, it really makes everything we do worthwhile," adds Dr. Thornton.



BAPTIST HEALTH®