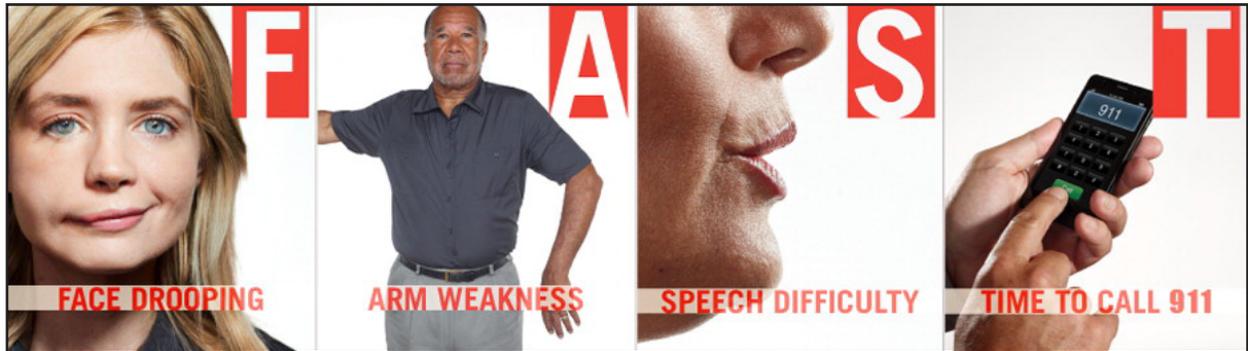


# IS IT A STROKE? CHECK THESE SIGNS FAST!



Stroke occurs when a blood vessel bringing blood and oxygen to the brain gets blocked or ruptures. When this happens, brain cells do not get the blood that they need. Without oxygen, nerve cells stop working and die within minutes. As a result, the part of the body that the nerve cells control cannot function.

A stroke caused by a blockage of the blood vessel is called an ischemic stroke. A stroke caused by a rupture of a blood vessel is called a hemorrhagic stroke.

Common symptoms of stroke are sudden onset of any of the following:

- Difficulty expressing or understanding language
- Slurred speech
- Facial droop on one side
- Leg weakness, arm weakness, or both on one side of the body
- Eye problems; not being able to see or double vision

At the hospital, tests and procedures are used to diagnosis a stroke when a person has a stroke or has stroke warning signs or risk factors. OU Medical Center looks at the outcomes of any invasive procedure performed at the hospital to make sure our patients receive quality care. Complications of procedures are measured and compared to national benchmarks.

For example, diagnostic catheter angiography is a medical test that can be performed. In this procedure a thin plastic tube, called a catheter, is inserted into a blood vessel through a small incision in the skin. The catheter is guided to the area being examined and pictures are taken of the area using X-rays. This test is used to detect blockage of the arteries to the brain that can cause a stroke. The test can also be used to detect an aneurysm, which is a weakness in the wall of the blood vessel that could rupture and cause a stroke. The risks for this procedure are small and the benchmark for a serious complication or death from the procedure is less than one percent.

*OU Medical Center performed 432 diagnostic catheter angiographies from January 2018 through July 2018 with zero deaths.*

**Act FAST. Call 9-1-1 at  
any sign of stroke!**