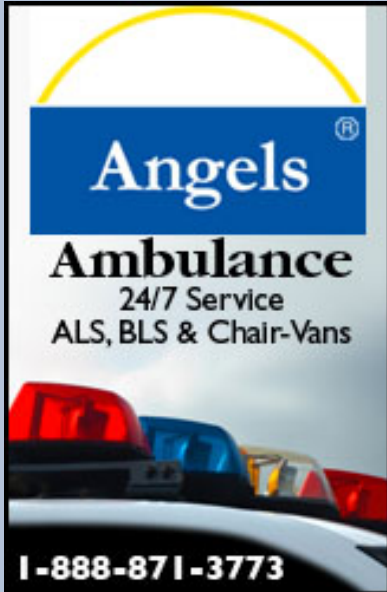




Red Fibers Health Review

VOLUME



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Precious Brain and Spinal Cord

The brain and spinal cord are the organs that control almost all of your body functions including vision, smell, taste, language, sensation and movement. If a stroke occurs and blood flow can't reach the region that controls a particular body function, then that part of the body won't function as it should. According to the American Stroke Association, about 700,000 Americans each year suffer a new or recurrent stroke. That means, on average, a stroke occurs every 45 seconds. Stroke kills more than 150,000 people a year.

What Is A Stroke?

Stroke is the nation's third leading cause of death. Symptoms of strokes can be quite variable. It all depends on what part of the brain is affected. For example, loss of blood flow to the visual part of the brain or the eye will cause a visual loss-either partial or complete. If the blood does not reach the language part of the brain, then a problem producing language will be noticed. Also if it affects the part of the brain that is responsible for motion, then weakness of the face and/or the body occurs.

Some stroke symptoms last less than 24 hours and are called Transient Ischemic Attacks (or TIA's). TIA's are also significant in that they can be a warning sign of a bigger stroke to come and should be treated just like stroke symptoms that don't resolve.

Stroke is often a painless experience and a lot of patients feel that they can wait a few hours to see what is going on. Some will feel the need to take a nap and see if they can "shake it off". This is a big mistake! A stroke will need to be treated just like a heart attack-an emergency that requires you to call the ambulance right away and to seek urgent medical help. When someone develops symptoms of a stroke or a TIA, a doctor may use many different tests, gather information and make a diagnosis.

There are different types of strokes, but regardless of type, surviving a stroke can have a devastating impact, not only on the survivor, but on everyone who cares about them.



Symptoms of a Stroke

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, 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