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When every second counts...

SSM Neurosciences Institute Invests in Life-Saving Technology for Stroke

The SSM Neurosciences Institute is investing more than \$2 million in cutting edge technology that will greatly expand its treatment capabilities for stroke, aneurysms and other life-threatening neurovascular conditions. A state-of-the-art **Biplane Angiography System** went live at SSM DePaul Health Center, in Bridgeton, on April 27th. Less than 24 hours later, it was used to administer interarterial tPA to a 68-year-old man who came through our ED suffering from stroke. It literally reversed the effects of the stroke. He received the right care at the right time and walked out of DePaul 3 days later with no visible signs he'd ever had a stroke. (To watch a simple flip video interview with the patient and his physician, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ripNCAQYumo>)

The Biplane allows high skilled neurointerventionalists to see enhanced images of the brain in three dimensions. They can then insert a small tube through a major artery in the leg or arm directly to the stroke site in the brain where a clot-busting drug (tPA) can be delivered in the case of an ischemic stroke or coils can be placed to stop bleeding in the case of a hemorrhagic stroke.

For stroke patients who are not candidates for tPA, the Biplane can be used to guide a MERCI Clot Retriever, a tiny corkscrew-shaped device, inside a catheter through the blood vessel to the site of the blockage where it can be used to grab the clot for removal. (To watch an animation of this incredible life-saving procedure, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGX7deuFkhc>)

To that end, The SSM Neurosciences Institute has also teamed with the **St. Louis University Department of Neurology** to bring Drs. Nirav Vora and Randy Edgell on-staff at DePaul. Both of these physicians are Neurointerventionalists, Board Certified in Stroke. They are part of an on-site team available 24/7, capable of assessing and treating even the most complex stroke cases, in addition to providing tertiary neurosurgical services. Dr. Vora has also been named Medical Director over the stroke program at DePaul.

More than 780,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year. For these patients, receiving the right care at the right time is the difference between life and death. The SSM Neurosciences Institute is committed to providing optimal care for every patient, every time, at all of its SSM hospitals across St. Louis.

That's why in addition to deepening our physician and technology base, The SSM Neurosciences Institute is working to ensure all of its hospitals are following the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The GuidelinesSM (GWTG) program. SSM St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles recently became the only hospital in Missouri to earn the program's highest acknowledgement for stroke care, the Gold Award. SSM DePaul received the program's Bronze Award. For more information, visit americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.

About the SSM Neurosciences Institute:

The SSM Neurosciences Institute comprises the comprehensive neurosurgical and stroke services of DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton, Mo., St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles, Mo., St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake Saint Louis, St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Mo., and St. Clare Health Center, in Fenton, Mo.