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let's talk about

Changes Caused by Stroke

Your brain controls how you move, feel, communicate, think and act. Brain injury from a stroke may affect any of these abilities. Some changes are common no matter which side of the brain the injury is on. Others are based on which side of the brain the stroke injures.

Frontal lobe controls personality, reasoning, parts of speech, and movement.

Parietal lobe controls speech and sensation (touch and pressure).

Temporal lobe controls hearing, speech, and short-term memory.

Occipital lobe controls vision.

What are the most common general effects of stroke?

- Hemiparesis (weakness on one side of the body) or hemiplegia (paralysis on one side of the body)
- Dysarthria (difficulty speaking) or stilted speech, or dysphagia (difficulty swallowing)
- Fatigue
- Loss of emotional control and changes in mood
- Cognitive changes (problems with memory, judgment, problem-solving or a combination of these)
- Behavior changes (personality changes, improper language or actions)
- Decreased field of vision (ability to see peripheral vision) and trouble with visual perception

What are common changes with a left brain injury?

- Paralysis or weakness on the right side of the body.
- Aphasia (difficulty getting your words out or understanding what is being said)
- Behavior that may be more reserved and cautious than before.

What are common changes with a right brain injury?

- Paralysis or weakness on the left side of the body.
- One-sided neglect which is a lack of awareness of the left side of the body. It may also be a lack of awareness of what is going on to the caregiver's left. For example, they may only eat from the right side of their plate, ignoring the left side.
- Behavior may be more impulsive and less cautious than before.
- It may be harder for the survivor to understand facial expressions and tone of voice. They also may have less expression in their own face and tone of voice when communicating.

What are common emotional effects of stroke?

- Depression
- Apathy and lack of motivation
- Frustration, anger and sadness
- Pseudobulbar affect, also called when crying or emotional lability (emotions may change rapidly)

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