Recognition of Stroke Symptoms: Compare right and left side of the body.

**BEFAST**

**Balance**
The person experiences a sudden loss of balance, headache or dizziness.

**Eye**
The person experiences blurred or loss of vision in one or both eyes.

**Face**
The smile is not equal or one side of the face droops.

**Arms**
The person cannot raise both arms equally.

**Speech**
There may be sudden slurring of speech or inability to talk.

**Swallow**
There may be difficulty swallowing like choking or coughing.

**Time**
Time lost is brain lost. Think “brain attack” like heart attack.
Other symptoms that signal a stroke:

- Sudden, severe headache
- Confusion
- Numbness or weakness on one side of face, arms or legs
- Loss of consciousness

**Important:** Note the time when symptoms first occurred. Options such as clot busting drugs and catheter-based mechanical clot removal are time-dependent. Though decisions about what therapies can be provided are complicated, if treatment is delayed more than three hours, an individual with a stroke may not be able to benefit from certain advanced therapies that can reduce damage to the brain and subsequent long-term disability.

### Stroke Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke is a leading cause of death in the United states and is a major cause of serious disability for adults.</td>
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<td>Someone in the United States has a stroke every 40 seconds.</td>
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<td>Every 4 minutes someone dies of a stroke.</td>
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<td>Every year more than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke. About 610,000 of these are first or new strokes.</td>
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