

Physician Forum

Excellence Above All

OFFERING THE LATEST IN STROKE TREATMENT

Jewish Hospital's Emergency Stroke Center, the first stroke center in Louisville, received the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) certification as a primary stroke center in April 2005. Jewish Hospital is now the third hospital in Kentucky to receive this designation and one of approximately 100 such centers nationwide.

As the only JCAHO certified stroke center in Louisville with 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week emergency call coverage by stroke fellowship trained neurologists, Jewish Hospital uniquely offers access to formally trained, expert stroke neurologists, and access to a wide-range of multidisciplinary services including: rapid triage for stroke patients, 24/7 availability of state-of-the-art neuroimaging, 24/7 availability of emergency and elective neurointerventional services such as intra-arterial thrombolysis and the MERCI clot retriever catheter, emergency neurosurgical coverage and a dedicated inpatient stroke unit all in a certified stroke center setting.

A stroke neurologist will be on call 24-hours-a-day and can be reached by calling the Jewish Hospital Emergency Department at (502) 587-4421. The neurologists on the stroke team are James Gebel, M.D. and Ulises Nobo, M.D.

"Research proves that patients treated in a dedicated stroke care facility often enjoy a better quality of life, better overall outcomes, and go home sooner," said Victor Wood, RN, CRRN, and coordinator of the neuroscience agenda at Jewish Hospital's Frazier

Rehab Institute. As he explained, "There is a three-hour window after symptoms first appear in which treatment with

clot-busting drugs can help prevent permanent damage. Our stroke patients benefit from the protocols and procedures we have in place that allow us to identify and treat them quickly."

Combined with the region's foremost rehabilitation hospital, Frazier Rehab Institute, Neuroscience Institute and

VNA Nazareth Home Care therapy program for stroke patients, the Jewish Hospital stroke program offers expert-level, comprehensive care for stroke and TIA patients from the moment they arrive at the emergency room door until the moment they arrive at their own front door. Finally, by offering free stroke risk assessment screenings and stroke recognition and prevention education to the public, Jewish Hospital is actively working to improve stroke recognition in our community so that more patients may benefit from acute intervention.

The region's only stroke fellowship-trained physicians

Jewish Hospital's Emergency Stroke Center opened in 1996 under the leadership of Lynn Simon, M.D., and it now has two nationally recognized neurology specialists, James M. Gebel, Jr., M.D., and Ulises L. Nobo, M.D. Dr. Gebel came to the center from the Stroke Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Dr. Nobo from the stroke center at Indiana University. According to Wood, they are the only physicians in the region with fellowship training in strokes. Both have a great deal of experience in leading-edge research. "Clinical trials that are advancing knowledge about the treatment of strokes and the prevention of second strokes are being conducted at the center," said Woods. "That means our patients can benefit from treatments that are not yet available at most facilities. One of these trials is studying therapies that may prove helpful to patients who have missed the critical three-hour window in which clot-busting drugs are beneficial."

Patients at the center also benefit from the expertise of John Guarnashelli, M.D. who, along with the other surgeons in the Neurosurgical Group of Greater Louisville and Southern Indiana, provide 24/7 coverage for stroke patients who require surgical intervention. In addition, Jewish Hospital's Director of Neurointerventional Radiology, Richard Paulsen, M.D., and his partners perform neurointerventional procedures.

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