



Georgia Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry

Newsletter

January/February 2007

Coverdell Partners:

Georgia Division of Public Health (DPH)

Emory University School of Medicine

Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)

American Stroke Association (ASA)

Georgia Hospital Association (GHA)

Do you have a story, stroke success, or stroke recognition you'd like to share with us? If so, contact:

Kerrie Krompf at kkrompf@emory.edu or 404-616-8741 and your story or achievement will be included in an upcoming newsletter

2nd Annual Southeast GA Stroke Conference

Sat., March 31, 2007

7:30 am – 2:00pm

Hyatt -Savannah, GA

For more Info. Call

912-819-6110

North Fulton Hospital's, Director of Neuroscience tells her personal story.

“NIH teaches; score Ataxia only when you see it.....”

Believe them when they say, it's different when it's one of your own.

For over two years I have performed NIH stroke scales, given tPA and educated patients and families on signs and symptoms of stroke. In addition, we have registered over 300 patients in the Coverdell Stroke registry. Not once did it cross my mind that it would become personal history, especially since my parents live in Germany and my husband Nick is only 30 years old.

On October 31st 2006 that changed in minutes when I received a phone call from one of our friends who works with Nick saying that they had just called 911 after Nick had passed out in his office.

Nick remembers hearing my voice over the speakerphone instructing his coworkers to check his breathing and his pulse and to absolutely not forget to send him to my hospital.

The minutes in the Emergency Room waiting for his ambulance to arrive felt like hours and once he arrived I was able to breathe easier.

On initial hospital assessment, Nick complained about a horrendous headache, the inability to swallow and he had a voice that was more like a whisper. He passed my rigorous NIHSS examinations over and over and his diagnostic test revealed a narrowing of his vertebral arteries at C1 but there was perfusion throughout.

The headache and nausea were treated and Nick improved over the next hours. His voice came back and he passed a bedside swallow test.

Nick had not gotten up or walked in the hospital and he didn't until we got home that night. That night on his way to the kitchen he “missed” and ran into the kitchen counter. The following morning he “missed” reaching for the shampoo bottle in the shower and used a wide based gate to keep his balance. For all stroke experts this was a clear sign that Nick's coordination and balance (which “live” in the cerebellum and are supplied by both vertebral arteries) were impaired, also called Ataxia. Nick became an expert on finger-nose and heel-chin testing.

Was I thinking stroke at this point? – No not really, but I did call our neurosurgeon and we added an MRI of the brain to rule out stroke.

Our world was shattered early that afternoon as Nick was diagnosed with two cerebellar strokes. He spent the next 7 days in our hospital awaiting targeted anticoagulation



Nick and Katja Bryant, 2005 Tuscany, Italy

therapy. Nick's experience was pleasant and we will be forever grateful for the swift and precise work of our Neuro Trauma ICU team and everybody who was involved in Nick's care

Nick owns a number in our Stroke registry and his outcome was fortunate and a second chance to us. I consider Neuroscience Nursing my calling, now more than ever before and Stroke care is a very important part of it. Diligently moving forward in guided patient care and increased community awareness and knowledge will lead us to success in getting victims to the hospitals faster and delivering goal oriented care and rehabilitation.

Written with permission of my husband and in grateful appreciation for the stroke care delivered in Georgia.

Katja Bryant, CNRN
Director of Neuroscience Services at North Fulton Regional Hospital

Coverdell Highlights

January Conference Call

Thank you to BJ Larson Jones, one of our QI directors for facilitating our January conference call. Our guest speakers on the January 8th call were Hope Adams and Jack Moody (Habersham County Medical Center), Martha Garner (Doctor's Hospital-Augusta) and Julie Long (Memorial Health University Medical Center). The speakers were from various sized hospitals (small, medium and large) and they discussed “ED processes: What works and what doesn't”. Thank you all for an informative call.

February Conference Call

May is stroke month and our February 5th conference call discussed suggestions on how to plan for it. Thanks to Nettie Jackson and Laura Bracci of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for speaking on the call. We'd also like to thank Julie Long (Memorial Health University Medical Center) and Trish Westbrook (Northeast Georgia Medical Center) for offering their input, and Kerrin Connelly for facilitating the call. If you haven't received a conference call handout, please e mail kkrompf@emory.edu.

Coverdell Q-Tip – (Quality Tip)

This month's Q-tip encourages hospitals to look at their “relay team”. Remember that multiple care providers within your organization will “touch” every stroke patient that comes into your facility. Be creative in utilizing all resources to provide the right care for every patient, every time. Memorial Health University Medical Center in

Savannah uses this concept by having the NIH Stroke Scale performed continuously by multiple “relay team” members as the patient moves through their system from the Emergency Department to their Neurosciences Center. This helps to reduce delays and improve the quality of care in a timely fashion. Thanks to Memorial Health for sharing their success.