

Advanced Stroke Care

At Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center

When stroke occurs, every minute matters. Precious brain tissue can be lost with every second that passes — and to prevent or stop the damage, victims need the expert care from a coordinated stroke program. A Primary Stroke Center like Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA offers effective, state-of-the-art treatments to help stroke patients return to an active, healthy life.

“We work as a collaborative team to ensure each patient receives the best outcome possible,” notes the only neurointerventional radiologist in Eastern Washington, Christopher Zylak, M.D. “No other facility in the Inland Northwest region can compare with the level of physician skill and technology we offer our patients.”

In fact, Dr. Zylak and his colleagues are experts in some of the most advanced, minimally-invasive treatments now available for stroke care.

“Traditional forms of treatment for acute stroke and brain aneurysm require the brain to not only be exposed, but actually moved or retracted,” Dr. Zylak explains. “With the minimally invasive techniques

we use, however, we can treat aneurysm and acute stroke patients with catheter-based technology — which eliminates the need for large surgical incisions and significantly decreases the risk for brain damage.”

Advancing Care through Research

In addition to providing patients with today’s highest standards for care, the stroke experts at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center are also active participants in groundbreaking stroke research.

“New evidence suggests that a non-invasive technique may be the best way to treat patients who are at risk for stroke, but are poor candidates for surgery,” Dr. Zylak says. “Science has shown that these patients often respond well when tiny, wire-mesh tubes called stents are implanted to open clogged carotid arteries.”

Sacred Heart is one of only 30 hospitals in the country to take part in an NIH-funded clinical trial (SAMPRIS) to further explore the benefits of stent placement for stroke prevention. This gives patients access to breakthrough treatments that might not be otherwise available.

Comprehensive Care, Close to Home

At Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, a full complement of stroke experts is available to provide every aspect of care — from prevention and acute treatment through recovery and rehabilitation. Our team includes neurologists, neurosurgeons, emergency physicians, neuroradiologists, nurses, radiologic technologists, rehabilitation therapists and stroke care coordinators to reduce the long-term impact a stroke can have.

“We understand the critical importance of high-quality stroke medicine,” Dr. Zylak says. “We offer the best care possible to protect and maintain every patient’s quality of life.”



Christopher Zylak, M.D.

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Stroke Warning Signs

Seek help at the first signs of stroke. If you or a loved one experiences any of the symptoms below, call 911 immediately.

- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, leg or one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause