

The Region's Comprehensive Choice for Stroke Care

Sutter East Bay Neuroscience Center at Eden Medical Center

Chances are good that you've recently seen a pink ribbon to support breast cancer awareness. And that's great — breast cancer is an important health concern for women. But what you may not know is that stroke kills twice as many women as breast cancer each and every year.

If you find that surprising, you're not alone. The unfortunate truth is that most women are unaware of the serious risks they face from stroke.

"In the past, there has been a tendency to focus on men when discussing stroke treatment and prevention," notes David Bonovich, M.D., the East Bay's only neurointensivist.

"However, all of the same risks apply to women, especially following menopause. That's why it's absolutely critical for women to become aware of their risk factors and actively manage those that can be controlled well before menopause begins."

High cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and smoking are among the most dangerous risk factors for stroke. When you talk to your primary care physician and become knowledgeable about your personal health, you can take the steps necessary to reduce or eliminate these risks.

Smoking is especially dangerous for women. "If you are a woman and you smoke, you must quit," says Dr. Bonovich. "Not only does smoking significantly increase a woman's risk for stroke, but it also puts her at increased risk for developing an aneurysm."

An aneurysm, a thin or weak spot in the blood vessels of the brain, can lead to severe medical conditions, including hemorrhagic stroke, permanent nerve damage, disability, and even death. Treating an aneurysm before it ruptures has fewer complications, but the indications for treatment are not easily recognized. Today, experts in the field are working on ways to detect aneurysms early so they can be treated before they rupture and cause severe debilitation or death.

A Community Leader in Care

Home to the only intensive care unit specializing in neurological conditions in the region, the Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center at Sutter East Bay Neuroscience Center at Eden Medical Center provides state-of-the-art care for all forms of stroke and neurological disease.

In fact, Sutter East Bay Neuroscience Center is one of only a few centers in the area able to offer clot-busting drugs through both IV and intra-arterial therapy, which allows the medication to be administered directly to the clot through



David Bonovich, M.D.

a small catheter. "We have the skill, experience and technologies necessary to achieve the best possible results," says Dr. Bonovich.

"We're also the only hospital in the region to offer both surgical and endovascular procedures for stroke and vascular malformations," Dr. Bonovich adds. "We provide our patients with full-service neurological care."

"We understand the critical importance of timely, effective management for these conditions and we are dedicated to ensuring each patient achieves the most optimal results."

Know the Signs of Stroke – Think FAST!


FACE – Uneven smile or expression, facial droop, numbness in the face.

ARM – One arm drifts down, weakness and numbness in one arm.

SPEECH – Slurred, inappropriate words, mute, strange speech.

TIME – Time is critical, call 9-1-1!

If you or a loved one experiences sudden numbness or weakness on one side of the body, slurred speech or confusion, don't delay. Call 911 immediately.

 **Sutter East Bay
Neuroscience Center**
At Eden Medical Center