



Sparrow earns rare stroke care certification

Mason man says he faced death, paralysis without special care

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LANSING — No one was more surprised than James Cady when he collapsed in his mother's driveway nearly two years ago after suffering a stroke.

The incident on May 16, 2011, left the Mason resident, then 41, unconscious for four days at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital.

Cady had worked out that day, and just days earlier had finished a 5K run with his best time.

"Being in bad health and having a stroke was the furthest from my mind," Cady said. "My stroke was serious enough that I could have died."

Cady told the story of a life-saving procedure and complex recovery Monday as Sparrow officials announced the hospital, in collaboration with Michigan State University's HealthTeam, had become the first in the state and one of 20 nationwide to be certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

Dr. Syed Hussain, medical director of stroke services at Sparrow and an MSU Health Team neurologist, said the coveted designation came after a two-day visit by a team from the Joint Commission, which evaluates and accredits medical facilities and programs, to assess advanced imaging capabilities, 24-hour availability of special treatments and the staff's training in the care of patients with complex strokes.

Cady said his stroke was rare and complex. He had a condition in which an artery wall in his neck was bisected after a strenuous workout.

"A clot built up over time as a result and became so big it started blocking blood flow," he said.

Hussain, who helped treat Cady, said a special catheter was used to deliver a drug in his groin and near his brain to break up the clot.

"We have the ability to do such an invasive procedure which benefits our patients," Hussain said.

"Without it, Cady faced partial paralysis at a minimum."

There was a 10 percent increase in stroke patients at the center last year, Sparrow officials said. In 2012, the center treated 750 patients.