






Information for Patients and their Families about TIA - Transient Ischemic Attack



A TIA or stroke occurs when the blood flow to your brain stops temporarily. The signs and symptoms of a stroke or TIA start suddenly. The symptoms that you have depend on what area of your brain is affected by the change in blood flow.

	Signs – Sudden:	What You Should Know
	Weakness, numbness and/or tingling in your face, arm, or leg	Usually only one side of the body is affected. You may not be able to move your arm or leg. Or, it may feel heavy and hard to use. Some people say the numbness feels like having “freezing” at the dentist.
	Trouble speaking	Trouble speaking can mean that your words are slurred as though you’ve had alcohol to drink. Or, you may know what you want to say but the words will not come out the right way – or at all. You may not understand what is being said to you by another person.
	Problems with vision	The eyesight in one or both eyes may change suddenly. It is important to cover one eye and then the other to find out whether the trouble is with one eye or both. The change in vision can be described in many ways: a “graying” of the eyesight, looking through a lace curtain, having a blind pulled down over all or part of the eye, blurry vision or double vision.
	Severe and unusual headache	This headache is often described as the worst headache of one’s life and can be so severe that it is crippling.
	Unexplained dizziness	This symptom is not the same as the sudden feeling of being light headed when you get up too quickly. People describe this sensation as being “drunk.” You may feel uncoordinated. It is common for people to use words like “woozy” when describing how they walked. Sometimes the room “spins” and you may feel nausea (like throwing up).

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, or if the symptoms you came to the Emergency Department for are not getting better OR getting worse, CALL 911!