Diagnosing a Stroke

Time is a crucial factor in treating a stroke, so patients thought to be experiencing one are given immediate care at the hospital. As part of providing lifesaving emergency treatment, the medical team will immediately begin to determine the type of stroke by conducting imaging tests using a CT scan or an MRI.

After seeing where the blockage is, your doctor may perform a series of tests to get a complete picture of your overall health and how the stroke may have affected it.

These tests may include:

- **Physical exam** – This comprehensive exam includes listening to the heart, checking blood pressure and conducting a neurological exam to see how a potential stroke has affected the nervous system.

- **Blood tests** – A series of blood tests to check how fast blood clots, whether the blood sugar is too high or low, whether you have any infections, and other indicators of health problems.

- **Carotid ultrasound** – Sound waves create detailed images of the inside of the neck's carotid arteries, highlighting any buildup of fatty deposits called plaque and showing blood flow in the carotid arteries.

- **Echocardiogram** – Similar to the Carotid ultrasound, this uses sound waves to create detailed images of the heart to help find a source of clots that may have traveled from the heart to the brain and caused a stroke.

For more information on strokes and how CorsoCare can support you and your loved one, call us at 248-438-8535.

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