

Proactive vs. Reactive Treatment - University Center Imaging offers options

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common form of heart disease and the leading cause of death in the United States. Stroke is the third leading killer with an alarming 750,000 victims each year, of these a staggering 600,000 could have been prevented. Of those, nearly 160,000 resulted in death.

A stroke can occur at any time and at any age and more than 50 percent of stroke victims present no warning signs. After the age of 55, the risk of stroke doubles every 10 years, according to a study conducted by the American Heart Association.

Most significantly, 97 percent of the adult population cannot name a single warning sign of a stroke.

In the case of an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), the abdominal aorta is the largest blood vessel in the body, an enlargement occurs in the lining of that blood vessel. As the lining gets weaker the vessel wall becomes thinner and expands. As a result an aneurysm can rupture producing catastrophic bleeding. Most people

with an abdominal aortic aneurysm present no warning signs.

Approximately 12-15 million American suffer from peripheral arterial disease (PAD), often referred to as hardening of the arteries or atherosclerosis. It is a condition in which the large- and medium- sized arteries supplying blood to the lower extremities become narrowed or clogged, caused by the buildup of fatty plaque, slowing or stopping the flow of blood.

Individuals with (PAD) are at a four-fold increased risk of heart attack and a two to three-fold greater risk for stroke.

With this knowledge, UCI offers the diagnostic studies necessary to provide patients and physicians with a better understanding of what is happening within the patient's hearts.

Such studies as basic Stroke Risk Assessment Screenings to echocardiograms, nuclear testing, cat scans (CT) and magnetic resonance (MR) assist the physician in determining the condition of a patient's heart and what the next step in

care should be.

All tests are performed by registered technologists and reviewed by our Board Certified, on-site radiologists.

Each individual has the ultimate responsibility for their own good health. The importance of nutrition, physical fitness and preventative screenings in maintaining a healthy lifestyle is well documented. By making these necessary changes, individuals have the tools necessary to lead a happy, healthy life.

Contact UCI at 726-3800 to schedule your Stroke Risk Assessment Screening (all three exams) for just \$99, individually \$35.

University Center Imaging is accredited by the American College of Radiology. A full service diagnostic imaging facility, UCI offers MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine, Digital Mammography, Breast and Prostate MRI, Ultrasound, Osteoporosis (DEXA scans), Echocardiograms, Fluoroscopy, Coronary Calcium Scoring, Stroke and Lung Screenings, and X-ray. ♦

Recognizing a Stroke:

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking four simple questions:

S – Ask the individual to SMILE.

T – Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE.

R – Ask him/her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

S – STICK OUT THEIR TONGUE (This is the newest addition – if the tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of stroke.

courtesy of University Center Imaging