

Soundbite script – Life after stroke

Michele Johnson, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"Anytime somebody goes in for a stroke, you have to look at what type of stroke. What was it caused from? Was it from a blood clot? Is it a bleed? Just trying to figure those things out initially, in the emergency room and in the hospital." (:15)

Michele Johnson, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"With the contractures (stiffness) of the hands, going back to therapy is important, some speech impediment, some visual problems and the weakness, she has progressed significantly since this all occurred," Johnson says. "But there will always be some permanent disability." (:20)

Deanne Meseck, stroke survivor

"They were just really worried about what being in a stressful work environment would do," says Meseck. "There was no way that I could hold a nine-to-five job." (:13)

Deanne Meseck, stroke survivor

"I spent a lot of time with a therapist talking about how I lost my identity, and I lost my whole way of life and had to figure out how to be a new person. That was probably as difficult as any physical therapy that I had." (:20)

Deanne Meseck, stroke survivor

"I want to motivate people to know that there is life after stroke," she says. "It may be hard to find it, and you won't be the same as you were, but you can do it. If I can do it, anybody can do it." (:14)

Michele Johnson, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"It is good for her to have a purpose because she was so busy before. This does give her joy. It's important to hear from somebody like Deanne; there are treatments out there and you can live and function. Maybe not the way you did before, but there is life after stroke." (:24)

Deanne Meseck, stroke survivor

"It was difficult. But I just kept waking up every day saying, 'You know what, I'm here, and there's a reason I'm here.' You have to find a silver lining."