

Telestroke aids critical care when seconds count

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ANCHOR LEDE: Telemedicine is a common and useful part of today's health care landscape. But it's sometimes not fast. So how can telemedicine play a critical role when millions of brain cells are at stake in a matter of minutes? Tim Ditman of OSF HealthCare has more.

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Enter telestroke. Doctors see people virtually when they come to the Emergency Department with a suspected stroke.

**\*\*\*SOUNDBITE\*\*\***

**Dr. Amer Alshehlee [ah-MEER // all-SHEK-lee], stroke program director at DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton, Missouri**

**"We see patients quickly. We triage them from hospital to hospital. That provides very quick treatment."  
(:11)**

That's Doctor Amer Alshehlee, who works with OSF in this area.

It's important stuff, because strokes can have life-altering consequences like vision, walking and swallowing difficulties. They can take years off your life and put you at risk of another stroke.

I'm Tim Ditman.

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ANCHOR TAG: Look up the acronym BEFAST for a guide to spot stroke symptoms.