

“My name is Craig Williamson and I am the ER Manager here at Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp, Alabama. I am going to give you some info on a stroke patient AcuteCare Telemedicine treated. She was our first tPA case here at Mizell and I for one could not believe my eyes. I was one of the skeptical ones when it comes to using tPA on a stroke patient and this lady made a believer out of me.

It was in January and we were blessed with ice and snow this year and almost all roads were blocked due to the conditions and hazards. The patient's daughter works here in the hospital in our payroll department. She was called by a family member while she was here at work and told about her mother and her symptoms. She instructed the family to call 911 and get her mother here to the Hospital. Our ambulance entrance was inaccessible due to ramps being iced. They brought her through the ambulatory entrance and we took her straight to CT. Her symptoms showed weakness to the left side and distant, blank look in her face and eyes. She was not communicating to us at this time. We had her CT'd and the radiologist was reading her CT in less than 10 minutes. While I and the EMT's were in the CT scanner my nurses in the ER had setup the telemed monitor and made contact with your group. The ACT physician came on line minutes after we had got in the ER. The patient was well within the 3hr window and after your physician had made his assessment and talked to the daughter and reviewed the findings, he felt she was a good candidate for tPA. The order for the bolus was given and I had the pleasure of being the one to administer the tPA. During the the push I actually saw the patient gain movement in her left leg. I hung the the drip and the patient began gaining more and more movement and began talking and smiling. The Neuro Physician saw this happening as well and felt that since there was no way to get patients out of Opp that she would be fine here in our ICU and he let the daughter know that he would be available if we needed him. After a couple of days in our ICU she went to our Med/Surg where we were able continue care for her and had Physical Therapy involved in her rehab. We were able to move her to swing bed status where Physical Therapy could continue working with her and we could continue care for her.

I talk to her daughter from time to time and she is still doing good. I believe all this was done in under 40 minutes. We have had 2 other cases where we were able to use tPA and the outcomes were great. One patient was sent to SAMC after tPA and he called to tell us how great our nurses were and even came here to see them. He stated that he was told at SAMC that the people here knew what they were doing and thanks to them he had a good outcome. I personally hope our relationship with your group continues. It has helped us to help our community.

If there is anything I can help with just let me know. Thanks for all that you do.”

- Craig Williamson, RN, ED/ICU Supervisor, Mizell Memorial Hospital