

Health Connection



PREMIERE ISSUE!

A PUBLICATION OF LV STABLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

A message from our CEO

Dear readers,

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter, *Health Connection*. In every issue, we'll update you on the latest health developments, newest physicians and technology, and other news related to LV Stabler Memorial Hospital.

As we conclude 2005 and enter 2006, we look back at a successful year. As new industry comes to Greenville and the surrounding communities, our business continues to grow. In 2005, we welcomed an additional physician to our staff. Pediatrician Javier Tapia, M.D., joined Greenville Pediatrics. Our medical team now comprises 28 active members specializing in family practice, internal medicine, general surgery, cardiology, otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat surgery), obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, emergency medicine, infectious disease and podiatry (foot surgery).

During the past year we've added new clinical technology to our facility, including an ultrasound/echocardiogram machine and an endoscope system for our operating room. This technology allows us to provide the most up-to-date inpatient and outpatient services. Our home health and physical therapy departments



saw tremendous growth in 2005. In fact, they experienced the highest level of growth of any department in our history! In response, we've added additional clinical staff in both areas.

We invite you to visit our Web site, www.lvstabler.com. In participation with Discovery Hospital, our site now offers a variety of useful health and wellness news and information.

We hope you'll enjoy this and subsequent issues of *Health Connection*. Thank you for your continued support of LV Stabler Memorial Hospital.

Best Regards,

DANIEL L. PERRYMAN, CEO
LV Stabler Memorial Hospital



Nimble body, nimble mind

Question:

To fight memory loss and dementia, it's a good idea to:

- A. do a crossword puzzle
- B. take up a new hobby
- C. exercise regularly
- D. all of the above

If you answered D, you're right. Scientists now know it takes more than mental stimulation to keep your brain sharp well into your later years. Physical activity gives your body and your brain a boost. A half-hour of moderate exercise—walking, golfing, gardening, performing household chores—on most days of the week can help you think more clearly and feel better at any age.

HOW EXERCISE HELPS

Exercise increases blood flow to your brain, promoting brain-cell growth, and helps reduce stress—important since chronic stress causes the release of hormones that can damage your brain over time. Some studies suggest exercise increases levels of important chemicals that maintain brain health. Other studies on mice show that exercise appears to delay or prevent plaque development in brain regions used in memory, thinking and decision making.

Regular exercise also helps preserve healthy brain functioning by:

- **Reducing your risk for heart disease.** Exercise lowers homocysteine, an amino acid in your blood that makes

nerve cells in the brain stop working and die.

- **Controlling your blood sugar.** Diabetes is linked with several types of dementia, including Alzheimer's and vascular dementia (common to stroke survivors). Both aerobic and weight-bearing exercises control your blood sugar by increasing your metabolism.
- **Lowering your blood pressure.** Unchecked, high blood pressure can damage blood vessels in your brain and reduce its oxygen supply, leading to a decline in decision making, memory and verbal skills.
- **Controlling your body weight and improving physical fitness.** Studies show a link between dementia and being overweight, possibly because overweight individuals have more cardiovascular risk factors associated with dementia than people at a healthy weight.

DIVERSITY IS KEY

For the most brain benefits, vary your exercise routine often. It's not how hard you exercise but how many activities you participate in that's key to preventing cognitive decline. Johns Hopkins University found that adults ages 65 and older who were involved in a number of activities (such as walking, biking, swimming, dancing and bowling) experienced less dementia than people who participated in fewer activities. One explanation could be that the variety of activities keeps more parts of the brain active.

So don't worry about how much you're sweating or how vigorously you're moving—just enjoy a variety of activities every day and keep trying new ones.

With good health habits and a little luck, you may never face a sudden medical crisis. But sooner or later, many of us find ourselves involved in one. Suppose it's chest pain, stomach cramps or a nasty kitchen accident—what's the right response? Should you get emergency help or just go see your family doctor?

A true medical emergency is a situation that's life threatening or could cause permanent harm if not treated immediately. Every minute counts. That's the difference between cases needing instant, emergency room intervention and those your doctor can handle in the office.

Doctors say there are no wrong reasons to call for medical assistance in a real emergency, especially if it's heart related. At such a critical time, don't drive yourself to the ER or get someone else to drive you—it could be dangerous. Plus, you need the expertise and equipment that's in an ambulance.

Below are examples of symptoms that constitute a medical emergency. Call for emergency assistance right away if you or a friend experiences any of them. And remember, if you're ever in doubt, play it safe and get help. It could save a life.

SEEK EMERGENCY TREATMENT ...

In cases of trauma:

- uncontrollable bleeding
- wounds with gaping edges



- wounds that involve the face or hands
- wounds caused by a puncture or wounds in which glass, metal or other objects have pierced the body
- severe burns
- head, neck or back injuries
- abdominal injuries or sudden, severe abdominal pain
- problems with movement or feeling after injury
- suspected broken bones
- animal or human bites
- contact with poisonous substances
- sunburn with nausea, vomiting, fever and chills

When the ER is your best option

Medical conditions that require emergency care

Any time these symptoms are present:

- chest discomfort
- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- nausea, dizziness, fainting or profuse sweating, especially when combined with chest pain and breathing difficulty—classic signs of heart attack
- sudden numbness on one side of the face or limbs, confusion, slurred speech, vision loss, severe headache or dizziness—all signs of a possible stroke
- severe allergic reactions from insect bites, food or beverages
- sudden or persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- coughing up or vomiting blood
- fainting, dizziness or hallucinations
- convulsions or seizures
- stiff neck with fever or headache
- sudden severe fever coupled with sensitivity to light
- stupor or dazed behavior
- drug or alcohol overdose
- attempted suicide or suicidal threats or statements



No place like home

LV Stabler Home Health Agency brings the care to you

At LV Stabler Memorial Hospital, we understand that being home is often the best medicine. Home care can improve quality of life by reducing the need for extended hospitalization or nursing home care and lowering the risk of hospital readmission or visits to the emergency room. That's why LV Stabler Home Health Agency offers skilled nursing care, aide visits and physical, speech and occupational therapies. Same-day admission is available when necessary.

WHO WE SERVE

A variety of medical conditions can precipitate the need for home care, including diabetes, stroke, heart disease and Parkinson's disease. One-to-one patient care focuses on achieving functional outcomes and maximizing independence. We're sensitive to your concerns, and emphasize patient and family education.

To be eligible for home health services:

- The patient must be homebound and require skilled services
- Services must be medically necessary and intermittent

- A physician must oversee the patient care plan

Referrals to home health services can be made by a physician, family member, friend, insurance company, nursing home, hospital, rehabilitation unit or the patient.

WE HANDLE THE PAPERWORK

Understandably, patients and families are often concerned with the cost of home care services. Fortunately, most insurance companies provide full or partial payment. Our home care team will review and explain your coverage, and bill your insurance company directly. LV Stabler Home Health Agency accepts HMOs, Medicare, Medicaid,

private insurance and other private pay sources.

OUR TEAM

LV Stabler Home Health Agency is located just behind the hospital, and our highly skilled healthcare team is ready to serve you. We believe in a team approach to patient care, and our healthcare team comprises professionals who treat patients with courtesy and respect. Our staff includes: Director Carol Davis, R.N.; Clinical Coordinator Marinda Trull, R.N.; Wanda Ogletree, R.N.; Michael Kooker, R.N.; Dana McKeown, R.N.; Linda Till, R.N.; Cindy Dewberry, biller; Amy Buck, biller/clerkal; Angelia Stevens, L.P.N.; Margaret Albritten, C.N.A.; PT Director Shannon Hartley, M.S., R.P.T.; Kristen Geohagan, L.P.T.A.; David Daughtery, L.P.T.A.; Russell Baugh, O.T.; and Jennifer Meadows, S.T.

Learn more!

Call us today at **(334) 382-2301** to discuss your healthcare needs with a knowledgeable professional.



Ultimate ultrasound

High-definition
technology treats more
patients in less time

In response to the needs of the community, LV Stabler Memorial Hospital (LVSMH) recently purchased a high-tech Philips HD11 Series Portable Ultrasound System. The Philips HD11 series has best-in-class image quality and offers a wide range of clinical capabilities that promote a high level of performance and diagnostic confidence. The HD11 is a new dimension in ultrasound that allows us to obtain more diagnostic information about patients, deliver more measurements and analysis on patient data, and provide comprehensive reports for evaluation.

MORE DATA, LESS TIME

With high-definition imaging and advanced clinical features, our new Philips HD11 Ultrasound System enables us to better address our patients' needs. And, because it's lightweight, compact and mobile, we can easily bring these new clinical capabilities to more patients in less time. Once an exam is completed, the data generated in the system can be quickly and directly accessed for fast interpretation.

The new HD11 enables our radiology department to provide an exceptional level of patient care. At LVSMH, we offer smarter, sleeker ultrasound and rapidly developing technology with dramatically increased performance.

OUR SPECIALTIES

We provide several areas of specialization in the field of diagnostic medical ultrasound. They include:

- **Abdominal ultrasound:** evaluation of all soft tissue, blood vessels and organs in the abdominal cavity
- **Breast ultrasound:** evaluation of breast abnormalities found with screening or diagnostic mammography
- **Obstetric and gynecologic ultrasound:** evaluation of the female reproductive system
- **Vascular ultrasound:** evaluation and analysis of the blood flow within peripheral and abdominal blood vessels
- **Echocardiography:** evaluation of the anatomy and blood flow of the heart, its valves and related blood vessels

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In addition to the latest technology, we have highly skilled, professional diagnostic medical sonographers who perform ultrasound examinations. Sonographers who specialize in cardiac ultrasound are called echocardiographers, while sonographers who specialize in vascular ultrasound are called vascular technologists. Although a sonographer plays a critical role in extracting the information necessary to derive a diagnosis, the supervising physician renders the final diagnosis of an ultrasound study.

Our radiology medical director, Stanley Winslow, M.D., along with other radiologists from the Radiology Group P.A. of Jackson Hospital, provide excellent services here at LVSMH.

Learn more!

For more information, contact LV Stabler Memorial Hospital's radiology department at (334) 383-2327 today.

HEALTHWISE QUIZ

How much do you know about **asthma**?

Test your knowledge and learn more about asthma.

- 1** Which of the following statements about asthma is *not* true?
- Cockroaches are a major trigger of asthma symptoms.
 - Asthma can develop at any age.
 - Approximately 4,000 Americans die from asthma each year.
 - People with severe asthma should avoid exercise.

- 2** Which of the following is a risk factor for asthma?
- hay fever
 - chronic sinusitis
 - obesity
 - all of the above

- 3** Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, the number of U.S. children estimated to have asthma is:
- 1.5 million
 - 5 million
 - 10 million
 - 20 million

- 4** All of the following are asthma triggers *except*:
- stress
 - home appliances that use natural gas as fuel
 - corticosteroid medications
 - mold

- 5** If someone is having an asthma attack, one of the first things you should do is:
- Take him or her outside for fresh air.
 - Have him or her breathe into a paper bag.
 - Help the sufferer get his or her prescribed asthma drugs and inhaling equipment.
 - Use the sufferer's Epi-Pen to administer an injection of epinephrine.

Conspiracy theory

How 5 risk factors join forces against your health

When it comes to heart disease, you know that risk factors like family history and being overweight don't work in your favor. Now, experts say a combination of five factors—a condition called metabolic syndrome—also conspire against you, adding up to a far greater chance of suffering a heart attack, stroke or diabetes.

You have metabolic syndrome if you have three or more of the following problems:

- **abdominal obesity**—a waist circumference of 40 inches or more for men; 35 inches or more for women
- **high blood pressure**—135/85 mm/Hg or higher
- **high triglyceride levels**—150 mg/dL or more
- **abnormal cholesterol**—HDL cholesterol levels of less than 40 mg/dL for men and 50 mg/dL for women
- **high blood glucose or insulin resistance**—a fasting glucose, or blood sugar, level of 100 mg/dL or higher

Studies show people with metabolic syndrome are twice as likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke than people without these factors.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can head off future trouble if you take these steps now:

- **Lose weight.** Losing as little as 5 percent to 10 percent of your body weight can reduce insulin levels and bring blood pressure down.
- **Eat healthier.** Include more fiber-rich foods like whole grains, beans, fruits and vegetables to aid weight loss and lower insulin levels. Reduce the salt, calories and fat you consume.
- **Exercise.** Get at least 30 minutes of moderately strenuous activity most days of the week.
- **Kick the habit.** Smoking increases insulin resistance and worsens many health problems.
- **Schedule regular checkups.** Get timely checks on your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels.
- **Consider drug therapy.** Your doctor may prescribe aspirin therapy or medication to control risk factors.



MATCH GAME

Finding the right doctor for you and your family

Different stages of life bring different medical scenarios. Still, one factor remains a constant: the need for a primary care provider who knows you well and can treat you and your family best. So, how should you go about choosing a primary care doctor?

The first step is to put together a list of candidates. Ask friends, family members, co-workers or people you know who work in the medical community. You'll need to find out which doctors are on your health plan.

Once you've chosen a few candidates, call their offices and find out more by asking:

1. Which hospital does the doctor use?
2. What are the practice's office hours?
3. How far in advance do I have to book a routine visit?

4. If I'm sick, will the doctor see me the day I call?
5. Who covers for the doctor when he or she isn't available?
6. How long is the average waiting room time?
7. What is the office policy on appointment cancellations?
8. What do I do if I have an emergency after office hours?
9. Does the doctor give advice over the phone for common problems?
10. How long will I have to wait for a call back from the doctor or a staff member?

Consider your interaction with staff during your phone calls. Were they friendly, efficient and knowledgeable?

Narrow your list to one or two physicians and make an appointment to talk to them. Most likely, you'll have to pay for these visits. As you talk to the doctor, notice whether he or she pays attention to your questions or seems distracted, giving "stock" answers.

Now you should be ready to choose the doctor who can treat you and your family best—and give you peace of mind.

Food for thought

Eating right can help you control diabetes

If you're one of the 16 million Americans who have diabetes, you understand that nutrition should always take center stage. Healthy food choices, along with exercise and medication, are vital to keeping your blood sugar, or glucose, in line and avoiding complications.



hydrate intake, sugary sweets and desserts helps control blood sugar levels. However, you must consume a moderate amount of carbohydrates to supply your body with the valuable energy they provide. But choose quality fuel. Variety among all food groups is key: fresh fruits and vegetables in abundance; beans,

brown rice and whole-grain breads and cereals; lean meat, poultry and fish; and low-fat dairy products.

Drink plenty of water, too, and avoid sweetened drinks. If you drink citrus juice, limit the serving to no more than 6 ounces. If you drink soda, switch to a diet variety.

It's important to stick to proper portion sizes. Learn how to measure and weigh portions. Read food labels, paying particular attention to serving sizes and total carbohydrates. A diabetes educator or dietitian can help you develop an eating plan. By learning to eat properly and controlling your weight and blood sugar levels, you can avoid most diabetes complications.

WHEN YOU EAT

If you have diabetes, you should eat three balanced meals and two snacks a day. Spacing food and trying to eat meals at the same time each day will help control blood sugar and weight. Eating reasonable portions of carbohydrates throughout the day—instead of consuming all your servings at one meal—will keep blood sugar levels stable.

WHAT YOU EAT

Planning what you'll eat at each meal will help you keep blood sugar within a healthy range all day. Limiting carbo-



Better health is just a click away

by providing quality and comprehensive healthcare services,” says Daniel L. Perryman, chief executive officer of LVSMH. “There’s no doubt that the health tools we’re providing through Discovery Hospital enhance our service to patients and help them manage their health. This fast and easy portal provides people with the information and tools they need to keep their family healthy. It’s a wonderful benefit to our community.”

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Discovery Hospital link features numerous educational and interactive components, including a medical library on various diseases and conditions, an anatomy explorer, a body mass calculator, explanations of various procedures and tests, nutrition information, a symptom explanation module, health centers and more.

THE INTERNET ADVANTAGE

“By using digital assets from across our services on cable as well as the Internet, we’re able to provide an important educational service to patients using this Web site,” says Mark Irwin, vice president of operations at Discovery Interactive Media. “Thanks to partnerships like we have with LV Stabler Memorial Hospital, we can deliver Discovery’s reliable health information to patients and allow them to gain a greater understanding of health issues they may be confronting.”

Everyone’s been there. You’re concerned about a bad cough or scratchy throat, or perhaps your friend has been diagnosed with an illness you know nothing about. Where can you turn to find complete and accurate answers to your healthcare questions? LV Stabler Memorial Hospital’s Web site, www.lvstabler.com. There, you’ll find the information and tools you need to manage your personal health and gain a greater understanding of health issues you and your family may be facing. Discovery Hospital features more than 7,500 pages of health-related articles and interactive tools.

“At LV Stabler Memorial Hospital (LVSMH), we strive to serve our community



Visit us online!

Find health information, risk assessments and more at www.lvstabler.com.

70LVS



LV Stabler Memorial Hospital
29 LV Stabler Memorial Drive
Greenville, AL 36037

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lebanon Junction, KY
Permit 19

WINTER 2006

Health Connection

Health Connection is published as a community service of LV Stabler Memorial Hospital. There is no fee to subscribe.

The information contained in this publication is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice. If you have medical concerns, please consult your healthcare provider.

Copyright © 2006 LV Stabler Memorial Hospital