



# Every Brain Injury is Different

## From Everyday Lives: Four Real-Life Accounts of Stroke

*A brain injury  
can affect anyone  
at any time,  
regardless of  
their age, gender,  
activity level, or  
lifestyle.*



Nicole was seven months pregnant.



Mingjia was lifting weights at the gym.



Leroy was lifting weights at the gym.



Dr. Petersen was at home with his family.

To tour a CNS facility, call 800.922.4994 or visit [neuroskills.com](http://neuroskills.com).  
To make a CA referral, fax 661.873.2509.  
For a TX referral, fax 972.871.5332.

**A MOTHER: Nicole Paredes**

In June 2017, Nicole felt chest pain, a headache, and was in and out of consciousness. Her speech began to slur, and that's all she could remember. Nicole was seven months into her pregnancy with her third child at the time. Nicole suffered a stroke due to pre-eclampsia and had to deliver her daughter prematurely.

**Age (at the time):** 31**Career:** Stay-at-home mom**Lifestyle:** Managed household chores, active churchgoer, no prior warning signs**Life Today:** Nicole has regained her speech abilities, learned how to walk again, and manages all household tasks on her own. She homeschools all three of her children.**A STUDENT: Mingjia Wang**

At just 20 years old, Mingjia Wang had the shock of his life. One morning he was lifting weights at the gym, but by afternoon, his left arm was numb, and his face began to droop. Mingjia, a college student, had suffered a stroke that caused left-sided weakness and other cognitive deficits. His stroke was the result of a brain AVM, arteriovenous malformation, or tangle of blood vessels.

**Age (at the time):** 20**Career:** College student**Lifestyle:** Worked out weekly, walked around campus, active student**Life Today:** Mingjia has regained full walking and speaking abilities. He has returned to his college campus and is pursuing a degree in Computer Science.**A BUSINESS OWNER: Leroy McClure Jr.**

Leroy McClure Jr. led an active lifestyle, running his own non-profit business and spending time with his eight grandchildren. But on July 30, 2021, Leroy was lifting weights at the gym when his head began to hurt, and he started slurring his words. Leroy suffered hemorrhagic stroke due to a ruptured brain aneurysm.

**Age (at the time):** 61**Career:** Business owner and author**Lifestyle:** Very active work life, lifted weights and worked out daily, played basketball**Life Today:** Leroy has returned to his community of colleagues, family, and friends. He walks over 15,000 steps a day, works out daily again, and has written a book about his stroke journey.**A DOCTOR: Dr. Michael Petersen**

In June 2023, Dr. Petersen had spent a typical day at home with his family. Hours later, he was found in his bedroom. Dr. Petersen suffered a hemorrhagic stroke, causing headaches, right-sided weakness, loss of walking ability and slurred speech.

**Age (at the time):** 54**Career:** Chief Medical Officer, CVS Aetna**Lifestyle:** Worked out 3x a week, active with family, busy work life**Life Today:** After 8 months of intensive neurorehabilitation, Dr. Petersen has relearned how to walk independently, strengthened his vision, and successfully returned to work full-time. He is excited to spend time with his children again and resume his work duties.