

OVERCOMING STROKE IN ISRAEL

Neeman Association for Stroke Survivors Israel

An ongoing story

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Data on Stroke in Israel:

- 150,000 stroke survivors in Israel
- 15,000 additional annual incidence of new stroke victims. About a third of these die within three months following the event
- Majority of remaining survivors suffer from disabilities in their daily functioning - motor, cognitive, emotional, communicative and/or behavioral
- Ongoing medical rehabilitation needed to allow a return, at least in part, to daily living
- High risk due to lack of awareness of risk factors and early warning signs
- Only 7% of patients arrive at hospital fast enough to enable administ emergency treatment.

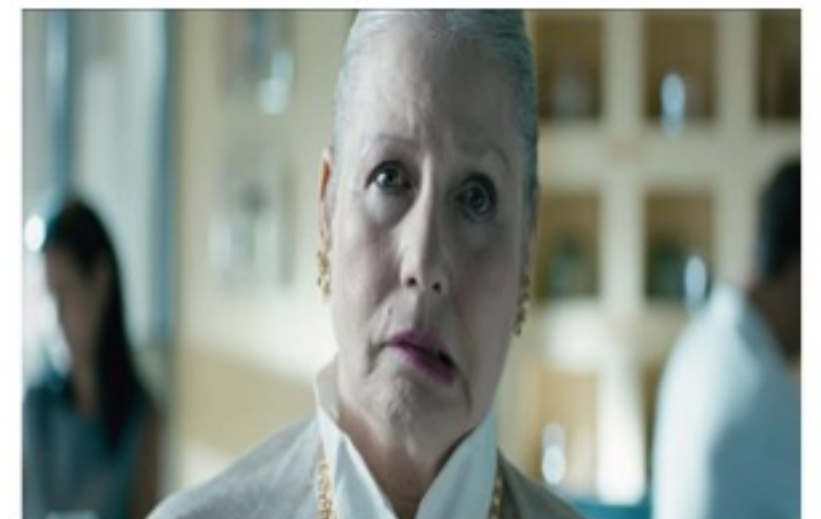


Problems and challenges in the treatment of stroke

- Insufficient stroke units across the country
- Rehabilitation stresses mainly physical disability, neglecting cognitive, psychological and psycho-social aspects
- Young survivors unable to resume work, are doomed to sit idly at home
- Patients suffer from a lack of basic knowledge regarding their rights and services
- There is no single, clear contact address for treatment and long term follow up
- The system does not invest resources in rehabilitation of the family

Neeman's Vision

- Neeman was created by stroke patients in 1996 as a self help organization to address the unanswered needs of stroke survivors
- **Our Vision is to reduce the burden of stroke** suffered by the survivors, family carers and the general public, through prevention, maximal treatment and long term continuity of care by
 - **Increasing awareness of stroke** amongst the health and welfare professionals and general public
 - **Preventing cardiovascular diseases** and their debilitating aftermath



Neeman's VISION: (continued)

- Striving towards the **highest standards of medical treatment** of stroke
- **Influencing health policy makers** to invest in the primary and secondary prevention of stroke
- **Promoting and developing innovating services** and institutions for long term care of stroke survivors and their family carers

Steps in the process of work:

- We have set up an advisory committee of experts in the fields of neurology and rehabilitation.
- We established a joint committee of the Health and Social Affairs Ministries to analyze and understand the needs and solutions of the problems of stroke.
- We worked to ensure continuing discussion about stroke in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.



Steps in the process of work: (continued)

- We participate in research and writing articles about the human and economic burden of stroke on society in Israel.
- We have developed social services to improve the quality of life of survivors and their families

Major activities and achievements:

- **Improved quality of life of stroke survivors:** Neeman runs 17 social clubs throughout the country.
- **Health promotion:** Develops opportunities and courses for physical fitness and preservation of a healthy life style.
- **Dissemination of information:** Runs public awareness campaigns and conferences, active website and Facebook page and a multilanguage booklet for all hospitalized stroke patients
- **Information and support services:** operates a national telephone service providing emotional support, information and consultation on realization of rights.



Major activities and achievements: (continued)

Influencing decision makers:

As the most active stakeholder for improved stroke care Neeman has **recruited all stroke relevant public and medical bodies** towards influencing the strategic planning of the **National Stroke Program** for prevention, treatment and continued rehabilitation and maintenance of stroke care in the community.



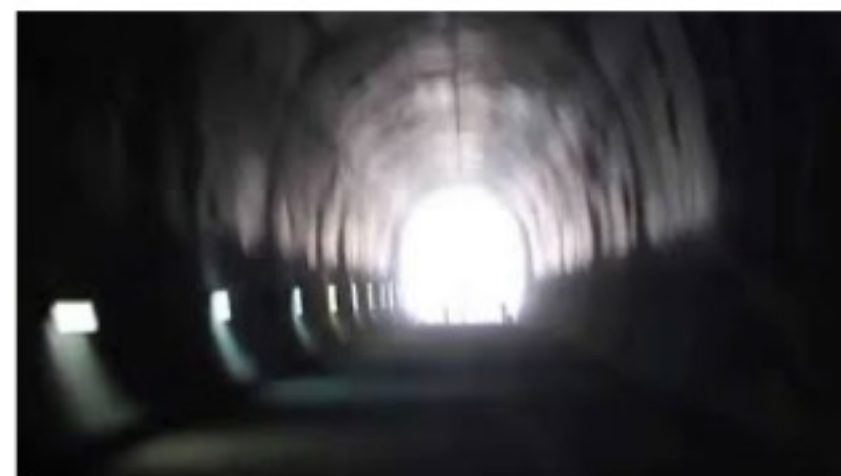
After 20 years of hard work and struggle:

- Stroke prevention became a major target of NHO strategy
- A National Stroke Strategy created and managed by the Minister of Health with the allocation of resources to achieve the goals
- The Ministry of Health is launching a second year major media campaign to raise awareness of the early signs of stroke
- The Ministry of Health with Neeman are organizing a conference for decision-makers in health and social welfare to deal with challenges of reducing incidence of stroke.

After 20 years of work and struggle:

- The Minister of Health is about to sign a Manifesto to reduce mortality from stroke and rehabilitation of the survivors and their families signed by all the directors of relevant medical associations.
- 10 Doctors will be trained in the field of brain catheterization (more than double of those existing now in Israel)
- Additional stroke units will be established across the country
- A special stroke coordinator will be stationed in each hospital in the country

There is light at the end of the tunnel



The secret of success:

- Believe in your way!
- Be patient, it's a long journey
- Do not be afraid of failures
- Expand the sources of your power and influence
- Collaborate with other NGOs
- Cooperate with the government



Mahatma Gandhi

"You must
be the
change
you want
to see."



The secret of success:

Use the media and social networks wisely



The secret of success:

- Work professionally and with full transparency
- Continue to prod the system into action, and continue influencing outcomes

Persistence!



Thank you and good luck!