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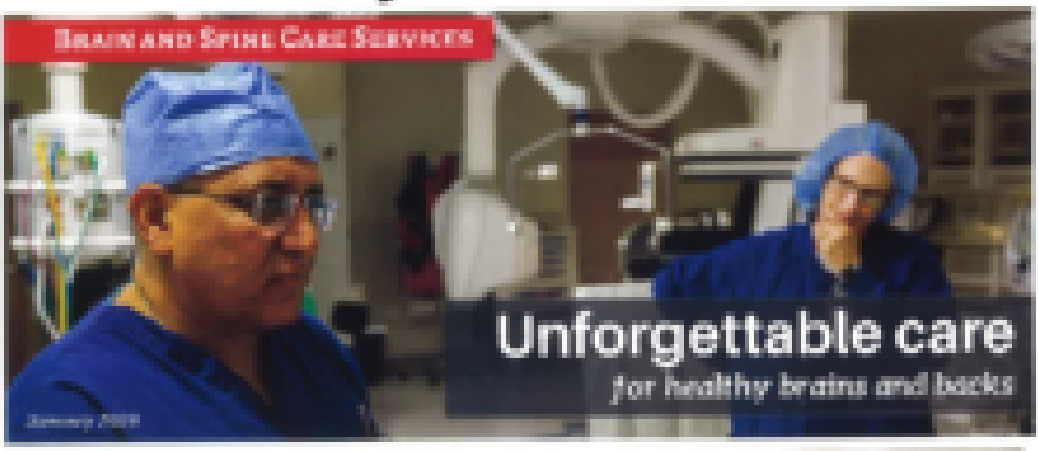
HealthyConnections

BRAIN AND SPINE CARE SERVICES



Unforgettable care

for healthy brains and backs

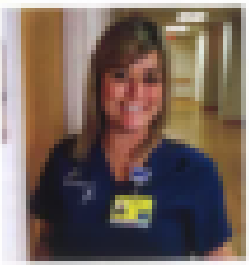
January 2019

It was July 3rd, and Kolette DeBartolo of Trevor was enjoying some time away from work.

"I hadn't been off on the Fourth of July in years," Kolette recalled. "I was doing some gardening work – what have to do. I sat down at a patio table and my daughter said, 'Mom, your right pupil is really huge,' so I went in the house. The pupil covered my entire eye. I knew that wasn't right."

Kolette – an obstetrics nurse who has helped deliver babies at Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital for 27 years – went straight to the people she knew and trusted to take care of her: the hospital's emergency department providers and staff.

"At the emergency department front desk," Kolette said, "I told them, 'If you can see my eye...' That was it. They called a stroke alert and staff responded very quickly."



Kolette DeBartolo

"It was just like a well-oiled machine," Kolette remembered, "one thing right after another, just like it would be if there were an emergency in any OB/GYN department. They went from one test to another: a CT Scan, MR, blood work, all of that. Everything happened so fast."

Dr. Arvind Ahuja

FINDING THE CAUSE

The tests quickly uncovered the cause. "It was an aneurysm that was pushing on one of the nerves behind my right eye," Kolette learned.

That's when Kolette met Dr. Arvind Ahuja, a neurosurgeon and spine care specialist on the Froedtert South Medical Staff. "Dr. Ahuja spoke to me almost like I was a family member," Kolette said. "He talked to me about my plan of care. I put my trust in him to fix the problem. I felt excellent about that. I had no doubts. And today I'm feeling great."

Dr. Ahuja worked with Kolette to choose the right treatment for her. "When it comes to treating an aneurysm," Dr. Ahuja said, "I'm not going to sell you a Ford because that's the only car on the lot. There are lots of options for caring for aneurysms and I've taken the time to learn how to do all of them."

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