MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS
RESEARCH SUMMARY

TOPIC: BREAKTHROUGH STROKE RECOVERY PUTS MARK BACK ON HIS BOAT
REPORT: **MB #4957**

BACKGROUND: A stroke happens when the blood supply that flows to the brain is interrupted or reduced, preventing the tissue from getting oxygen and nutrients. As a result, brain cells can start to die in a few minutes. Fast treatment is crucial for stroke patients so that doctors can reduce brain damage and other complications. The two main causes of stroke are a blocked artery, and a leaking or bursting blood vessel. A complication of stroke can mean the patient becomes paralyzed on one side of their body or unable to control certain muscles on one side of their face or arm.
(Source: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/stroke/symptoms-causes/syc-20350113)

SYMPTOMS: Symptoms of a stoke are trouble speaking and understanding what others are saying, paralysis or numbness in the face, arm, or leg, problems seeing in one or both eyes, a headache, and trouble walking. There are lifestyle risk factors that may cause an increase in a patient's stroke risk; for example, being overweight, inactive, heavy drinking, and use of illegal drug such as cocaine and methamphetamine. Medical risk factors include high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol, diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, cardiovascular disease, family history of strokes, and COVID-19. Complications of experiencing a stroke are paralysis or loss of muscle movement, difficulty swallowing, memory loss, emotional problems, pain and changes in behavior or the ability to care for themselves. Strokes can affect the upper limbs and patients may experience weakness, coordination issues, changes in muscle mass, swelling, and pain.
(Source: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/stroke/symptoms-causes/syc-20350113 , https://strokefoundation.org.au/What-we-do/For%20survivors%20and%20carers/stroke-resources-and-fact-sheets/Upper-limb-management-after-stroke-fact-sheet)

NEW TECHNOLOGY: A brain-computer device has been approved by the FDA to help stroke patients experiencing paralysis regain motor and sensory skills. This non-invasive device relies on a wireless electrode headset and a battery powered robotic exoskeleton worn over the hand, wrist, and forearm. The hand device responds to the brain through the headset and moves the patient's hand. This is part of a rehabilitation therapy and will only be provided to patients with a prescription.
(Source: https://www.medtechdive.com/news/fda-greenlights-device-to-retrain-muscles-in-stroke-patients/599001/)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com