

## SPOT THE SIGNS

The most common and well-known symptoms of stroke are slurred speech and weakness down one side – your face may droop, and you may have trouble using one side of your body.

"But there is a wide range of other possible symptoms" says Dr Terry Quinn, a stroke researcher and consultant at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. "A stroke can occur anywhere in your brain and its location will influence your symptoms. You could find that you are talking jibberish – even though you think you are speaking normally. Or you could think that other people are talking nonsense, when they are not."

Some people lose their ability to read – because that part of their brain is affected, causing written words to appear jumbled.

If your perception is affected, you could even think that one half of your body belongs to someone else. A sudden and severe headache could also be a sign.

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The faster you get help for a stroke, the better your chances of a complete recovery, says health writer Karen Evennett