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A Celebration of Progress

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A Celebration of Progress

A bilateral thalamic stroke. For months, he laid in bed silently and slowly tracking us with his eyes as we visited him day after day. The nurses moved his body for him while a IV supplied him nutrients and a catheter collected his waste. The ventilator revved and took his breaths for him. For months we weren't sure what would come of his health. What would this do to him? him? Was this his new baseline? Would he ever recover?

Despite the uncertainty, a united healthcare team continued to the best of their ability. "Can you squeeze my hand with your hand? Can you wiggle your toes? Please follow my fingers with your eyes." Before we knew it, something changed. The ventilator was turned off and he was able to breathe on his own. The bed was empty and he was able to sit up in his chair. This persisted, day after day. He became more receptive to our words. He seemed more in tune with the environment around him. He was clearly present- emotionally, mentally, and physically. "Can you give us a thumbs up?" Slowly. Shakily. He raised his right hand and proudly presented his thumbs up. The room erupted into applause.

REENA PATEL IS A THIRD YEAR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENT WHO ENJOYS CREATIVITY THROUGH VARIOUS AVENUES INCLUDING COOKING, DESIGNING, AND WRITING.

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