

**STUDENT HANDOUT**  
**Unfolding Case Study: Caring for Peter Schultz**  
**Cerebral Vascular Accidents (CVAs)**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following account describing the CVA experienced by Peter Schultz. Working in small groups, apply your knowledge about CVAs to the scenario below by responding to the following discussion questions:

- What signs and symptoms of CVA did Peter experience?
  - What were the immediate and long-term results of the CVA experienced by Peter?
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*What I thought was the beginning happened March 3, 1995, when Peter was 77 [years old]. I awoke in the night to hear Peter in the bathroom coughing and hacking as though to rip his throat out. He finally stumbled back to bed and went to sleep. I arose fairly early to prepare breakfast for his sister and her husband who had been visiting us and were leaving that morning for Alberta. We three were sitting at the table waiting for Peter who was slow making an appearance. When he did, we couldn't understand a word he said as his speech was so confused. He didn't seem to realize there was anything wrong. We struggled through breakfast trying to persuade him to see a doctor, but he insisted he simply had a little sore throat, so finally our guests left and we began our day.*

*Peter lay down on the couch and slept. Something was wrong, but I didn't know what. Later I went to my daughter's house to give the kids a piano lesson. When I told them what had happened, my son-in-law immediately phoned the doctor who said I must bring Peter into the office. I went home and did that.*

*"His blood pressure is out of sight," the doctor said. "He's had a stroke. I'll arrange for a brain scan and we'll see what the damage is."*

*The scan showed that he had had several prior strokes that hadn't been obvious. Medication for high blood pressure was prescribed and I made sure Peter took his pills each day. I had no experience looking after someone who was sick, but Peter didn't seem sick anyway, just a bit confused sometimes. However, as time went on, I began to notice some personality changes. He was often rude to me in front of friends, cried easily, and clung to me almost obsessively; table manners seemed to slip away and he was sometimes extremely impolite.*

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