



12/28/2004 Neurosurgeon Issam Awad, MD, featured on WGN News



WGN News at Nine recently reported on a story entitled "The Miracle Bowl" and interviewed neurosurgeon Issam Awad, MD, and Evanston Hospital patient Colleen Lowe.

"Ms. Lowe was taken to Evanston Hospital Emergency Department after a bowl fell out of a kitchen cabinet above her head and set in motion a chain of events that probably saved her life," says Dr. Awad. She had turned her head quickly to the side to avoid being hit by the bowl and this sideways movement of her neck actually caused her to lose consciousness. When she arrived at the Emergency Department, doctors immediately ordered a CT scan of the brain that revealed a tumor located on her brainstem. Up to this point, Lowe had not experienced any symptoms from the walnut-sized tumor located at the base of her brain.

Issam Awad, MD, Director of Neurovascular Surgery, Neurocritical Care, and Stereotactic Radiosurgery

"Surgery to remove this tumor was risky and included the chance of paralysis and a long rehabilitation," says Dr. Awad. Without surgery, however, the tumor could be fatal instantly because of its location.

Dr. Awad performed the six-hour surgery to remove the tumor and although he had talked with Lowe's family about the need for extensive post-operative recovery and therapy, Lowe recovered so quickly from the procedure that she returned home after only a few days in the hospital.

"I think that bowl is the best thing that ever happened to her," says Dr. Awad, "and we are all thrilled with her rapid recovery."

Dr. Awad is Director of Neurovascular Surgery, Neurocritical Care, and Stereotactic Radiosurgery, and Professor of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The Neurosurgery Program at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare offers a full spectrum of care from subspecialists who perform a wide range of minimally invasive as well as complex procedures to diagnose and treat patients with a host of neurological disorders. For more information: **312.570.1440**.

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