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When Hospitals and Dementia Collide • February 24, 2015 • Issue #792

RETRO MAGAZINE

A look back at 20 years of *Today's Caregiver* magazine

Sept/Oct 2009

Live, Laugh, Love Clay Walker

Ernest Clayton (Clay) Walker, Jr. is a talented man, with a large group of dedicated fans; a good man, who has created a non-profit organization, Band against MS, dedicated to supporting those living with multiple sclerosis; and an extremely lucky man, with a wife, Jessica, who makes sure that she says "I love you" every time he injects the Copaxone drug necessary to help treat his own MS. MS is a disease that affects the central nervous system—the brain and spinal cord. It can cause problems with muscle control and strength, vision, balance, feeling and thinking. Walker, who's in remission, has what's called relapsing-remitting MS.

Clay was first diagnosed in 1996 as he was playing his usual pick-up basketball game with friends. During the game, his leg stopped working and he was experiencing double vision. "I went for an MRI and they found lesions and scars on my brain. That's what multiple sclerosis (MS) means—multiple scars," Walker says.

After the diagnosis of MS was confirmed, his concerns turned to his young daughter; would he be able to dance at her wedding or even be around long enough to give away the bride? And even more, would he be able to play with her and her two siblings to come. In fact, his children (William, MaClay, and Skylor) have embraced the situation and can and do help inject their dad with Copaxone ...[more](#)

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CareNotes

FEATURED ARTICLE

Who Takes Care of the Caregiver

By Audrey Lancaster, BSN, RN, CGRN

Caregivers provide care in a wide variety of situations. Caregiving can be a very difficult task to accomplish, especially when it involves caring for an elderly parent. This is definitely a role reversal, which many individuals are not prepared for, or equipped to handle [...more](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

Hospitalization and Dementia: The Role of the Caregiver

By Sandra O'Connell

Inevitable as the progression of the disease itself, hospitalization will happen to a person with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Physical problems increase with age; studies show that one-third of the people discharged from the hospital are 65 or older. With a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, the chance of hospitalization increases dramatically [...more](#)

CARETIPS

5 Wheelchair Van Shopping Tips for Caregivers

By Susan Hawkins

If you're the caregiver for an individual who uses a wheelchair, owning a wheelchair accessible van is helpful and can be more affordable with these tips.

Family Caregiver

As the caregiver for a family member, you can choose a wheelchair van based on the needs of the person in your care. Wheelchair vans come with rear entry access or side entry access, and one can sometimes work better than the other in certain situations [...more](#)

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CARENOTES

From Barbara in Lake Worth, FL:

I share a live-in shift with two other caregivers and we take care of an 87-year-old woman who lives in her home and has Alzheimer's. She has a very high level of anxiety and does not like to be left alone for a minute. Another symptom of her anxiety is that she visits her refrigerator constantly looking for snacks to eat. We are very careful not to buy her any snacks like cake, cookies or ice cream, but buy her healthy snacks instead. We deal with the issue of her getting two or three snacks consecutively, but that is not the biggest problem.

We have caught her going into her freezer attempting to eat frozen meats and fish. We are very diligent about following her into the kitchen, but on occasion, have missed these incidents. We have discussed them with her family and we are trying to come up with a solution. The family does not want to put a lock on her freezer because they feel that she will become extremely combative and agitated. Can you give me any suggestions? Please help!

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