

**Fox 12 – CBS/Fox Affiliate**  
**Nerve Transplant Gives New Hope to Stroke Victims**  
**February 24, 2010 at 11:55pm**

In Health Watch: A stroke can partially paralyze one side of the body, leaving a victim without the use of an arm or a leg. But a new experimental procedure that rewires nerves is giving one man at least some use of his arm again. Randall Pinkson reports. Five years ago, a stroke left Vinny Filippini with a limp and paralyzed his right arm. Vinny Filippini says, "just like - nothing. "The stroke short-circuited the brain signals that tell his right arm to move. But, his left side worked fine. And that gave Doctor Andrew Elkwood an idea. Two years ago he performed a first of its kind surgery on Filippini. The doctor took nerves from his leg to build a kind of extension cord from the left arm - across the inside of his chest - to Vinny's right side- allowing the brain signals to get through. This was Filippini before surgery. "Bend your elbow, nothing. "This is Filippini now: Today he can hold up his arm and move it from side to side. Dr. Andrew Elkwood says, "It still blows me away; the body is remarkably adaptive. "He plans more surgery - this time to see if he can reconnect the nerves so that Vinny can to grasp objects. Doctor Elkwood is going to perform this experimental surgery on more patients, to perfect the procedure. He is hoping make it a standard part of stroke treatment. Filippini's new range of motion makes everyday tasks - like getting dressed- much easier. Vinny says, "It's coming takes a long, long time boy. "Vinny's Wife Kathy Filippini says, 'Just to see this glimmer of hope in him it's a big help. "Fillippini's wife can see the difference and says her husband 's new mobility has made him a happier man.

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