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We Made That Call

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We made that call

on the CT scan as
blood spilled over
your ventricles
to the surgeons
regarding emergent
interventions
before we rushed
you out of one room
into another
to pharmacologists
as lines flowed
with medications
so easily we made
those calls but
in the last one
I still hear the break
in your wife's voice
when she asks
if she will ever

be able to see
you again
in those moments
it is hard to tell her
that I have seen
and cared for
hundreds of
stroke patients
when outcomes differ
and none of them
are her husband
yet I start the
drive home
dial her number
talk for miles and
miles on end
knowing that
minutes can
determine
lifetimes

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