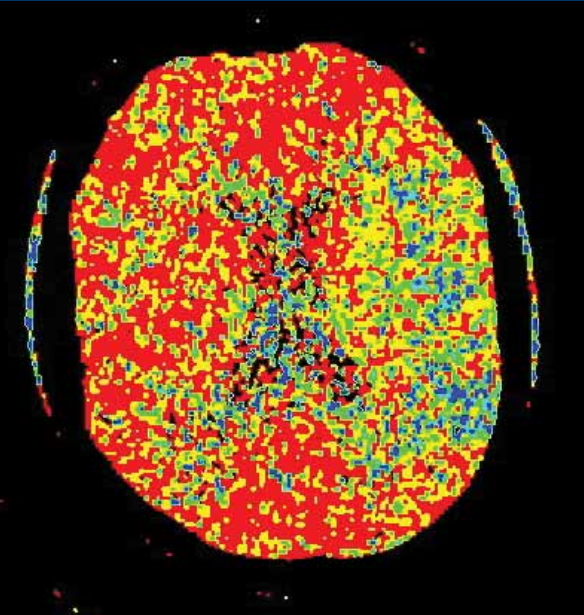




Weill Cornell Medical College

Brain and Spine Updates September 2009

Cerebrovascular Update - Carotid Artery Disease



...Working together in a spirit of collaboration, we are dedicated to providing world-class patient care, ensuring a cure whenever possible, minimizing pain, shortening hospital stays, and creating extraordinary breakthroughs in research that truly offer hope in treating the most challenging neurological diseases of our time.

— Drs. Philip E. Stieg, PhD, MD & Matthew E. Fink, MD

Neurology

Carotid artery stenosis is a common cause of stroke. Ranked among the top ten departments of neurology in the United States, we are a premier provider in the diagnosis and management of carotid artery disease and stroke. Sophisticated diagnostic tools are utilized, such as carotid Doppler, MRI, MRA, CT scanning, and angiography. The physicians staffing our Stroke and Critical Care Program are experts in the evaluation of risk factors for stroke and in the formulation of a comprehensive patient plan. Working at a world renowned medical and teaching center, we have the unique advantage of interfacing with specialists from all areas of medicine, as well as access to a wide array of resources. We also maintain a congenial

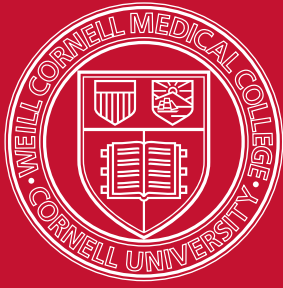
and collaborative relationship with the Department of Neurological Surgery. Emergency facilities at our medical center were recently upgraded and are of the highest technological level. Triage is efficient and there is a designated entrance and support system in place for all forms of stroke. The Stroke Council of the American Stroke Association gave their 2009 Willis Lecture Award to the head of our division of neurobiology on the changing landscape of cerebral ischemic injury. During National Stroke Month in May, the department participated in health outreach to the community via an educational video and a public forum on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of stroke.

Neurosurgery

Receiving patients from around the world, the Department of Neurological Surgery offers the latest in minimally invasive techniques for the treatment of carotid artery stenosis and the prevention of stroke. Our cerebrovascular team of neurosurgeons provides the full spectrum of treatment options: Carotid Stenting; Carotid Endarterectomy; Bypass Surgery; and the Concentric (Merci) Retriever (devised by one of our surgeons) for blood clot retrieval and restoration of blood flow to the brain in treating ischemic stroke. Utilizing state-of-the-art diagnostic tools, our neurosurgeons design "the optimal patient plan" – one that affords our patients the least invasive treatment whenever possible. We take a multidisciplinary approach including neurologists, neurosurgeons, and neurointerventional radiologists, physician extenders and social workers. The department held an educational

public forum during May, National Stroke Month, on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of stroke. Experts in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, and cardiology spoke, explaining the importance of procedures such as Carotid Stenting and Carotid Endarterectomy for the prevention of a stroke, along with healthy lifestyle guidelines.

Another physician has joined our team, a specialist in interventional radiology and endovascular treatments. Two minimal access suites are underway for the installation of intraoperative angiography equipment. Clinical trials and laboratory research continues in pursuit of novel therapies for stroke. To ensure a better quality of life, our medical care team of intensivists, nurses, and rehabilitation experts, monitors progress and conducts tests to evaluate post-treatment success.



Weill Cornell Medical College

Editorial Board

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Suzanne Ross
Medical Editor

Faculty Announcements

Jeffrey P. Greenfield, MD, PhD,
is a pediatric neurosurgeon who
plays an integral role in providing
care to children.



Athos Patsalides, MD,
is a neurosurgeon specializing in
kyphoplasty and interventional
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Brain and Spine Updates

Upcoming CME Activities and Other Events

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

September 23, 2009 – 6PM at Weill Cornell Medical College
To RSVP, visit www.cornellneurosurgery.com.

CELEBRATING THE SPINE CENTER

October 1, 2009 – 6PM at Weill Cornell Medical College

Members of the medical community are cordially invited to attend the official launch of the spine center.
To RSVP, visit www.cornellneurosurgery.com.

INDICATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY: HANDS-ON SYMPOSIUM

December 10 – 12, 2009 at Weill Cornell Medical College
Register online at www.cornellneurosurgery.com.

SKULL BASE COURSE

February 26 – 28, 2010 at Palm Beach, Florida
Register online at www.cornellneurosurgery.com.

CLINICAL TRIALS: Extracranial Stenosis (Carotid)

- CREST (Carotid Revascularization Endarterectomy vs. Stenting) trial.
This is a prospective, multicentered, NIH-funded trial to compare the results of treating carotid stenosis with either carotid endarterectomy or carotid stenting.
- Capture 2
A prospective, non-randomized multicentered descriptive post-approval registry of carotid stents patients.
- SMART (Neuropsychological Functioning, Quality of Life and Cerebral Blood Flow in Carotid Stenting).
Researchers at Weill Cornell will determine if carotid stenting increases the quality of life and cognitive functioning in patients with severe carotid stenosis (greater than or equal to 70%) due to the increase in cerebral blood flow following the procedure.
- SAMMPRIS (Stenting & Aggressive Medical Management for Preventing Recurrent Stroke in Intracranial Stenosis) is a prospective controlled trial that is currently randomizing patients with symptomatic (after TIA or mild stroke) severe (> 70%) intracranial stenosis to medical management versus stenting.

For these and other active clinical trials,

visit our website at http://www.cornellneurosurgery.com/research/clinical_trials.html

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