



August 2009

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Patient Care

Partially Blocked Carotid Artery Stenosis – What to Do?

Mayo Clinic Neurosurgeon Giuseppe Lanzino, M.D., discusses treatment options for patients diagnosed with partially blocked carotid arteries but without symptoms such as a mini-stroke, or amaurosis fugax. A partial blockage (greater than 60 percent) in patients without symptoms carries a risk of stroke of about 2 percent each year. He outlines treatment recommendations, based on a review of the most current studies of treatment of carotid artery stenosis.

[Learn more and watch video interview](#) of Dr. Lanzino.

Research

Memory Decline Begins in Middle Age for Some at Risk for Alzheimer's

Carriers of a common genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease begin to have memory declines in their mid-50s, far earlier than previously thought, according to a study led by researchers at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. The study supports the possibility that future Alzheimer's treatments may be most effective if started in middle-aged people, years before the onset of problems.

[Learn more](#)

Structural MRI May Diagnose Dementia

A new diagnostic approach using structural MRI may help physicians differentially diagnose three common neurodegenerative disorders — Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal lobar degeneration and Lewy body disease. The new diagnostic framework developed by Mayo researchers, called STructural Abnormality iNDex, shows promise in accurately diagnosing dementia patients in life.

[Learn more and watch video interview](#) of Prashanthi Vemuri, Ph.D.

MR Technique Differentiates Dementia Patients

Mayo researchers studied patients with dementia with Lewy bodies, patients with Alzheimer's disease and cognitively normal subjects using diffusion tensor MR imaging (DTI). They found that images from patients with dementia differed significantly from patients in the control group. DTI provides information on the tissue microstructure in the brain.

[Learn more and watch video interview](#) of Kejal Kantarci, M.D.

Deep Brain Stimulation for Psychiatric Disorders

On the basis of success with deep brain stimulation (DBS) for movement disorders, Mayo researchers have conducted several trials to investigate the effectiveness of DBS in treatment-resistant depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Tourette syndrome.

[Learn more and watch video interview](#) of Neurosurgeon Kendall Lee, M.D., Ph.D.

Racial Differences in Lymphoma Incidence

The incidence of primary central nervous system lymphoma is two times higher in black Americans, ages 20 to 49, than in white Americans, according to a Mayo Clinic study. Incidence of the rare tumor is also increasing in transplant patients infected with HIV and the elderly.

[Learn more and watch video interview](#) with Brian O'Neill, M.D.

Education

Mayo Grand Rounds Presentations

Select Mayo Clinic [Grand Rounds presentations](#) are available online. Access them from the [Medical Professionals](#) section of the mayoclinic.org Web site. New presentations are posted regularly.

Mayo Clinic Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Review

Sept. 11-13, 2009

Learn about the latest in management of acute ischemic stroke and brain hemorrhage, as well as asymptomatic vascular lesions, including arteriovenous malformations, cavernous malformations, cerebral aneurysms, and carotid stenosis. The course will also cover the latest diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to brain attack and a review of the major single-gene disorders that cause stroke. Lectures will be supplemented with highlights of images in clinical vascular neurology.

Location: Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, Fla.

Contact: 800-462-9633 (toll-free) or cme-jax@mayo.edu

[Brochure](#)

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22nd Annual Epilepsy Update

Nov. 7, 2009

Mayo Clinic and the Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona jointly sponsor this course in cooperation with Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix Children's Hospital and the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

An interactive and didactic format allows use of an audience response system for all case studies and presentations. Each session will conclude with an opportunity for participants to ask questions on the cases discussed or present their own cases to the faculty panel.

Location: Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Contact: 480-301-4580 or mcs.cme@mayo.edu

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New Staff

[Lyell Jones, M.D.](#), Neurology

[Istvan Pirko, M.D.](#), Neurology

[Stephen Pirris, M.D.](#), Neurosurgery

[Wolfgang Singer, M.D.](#), Neurology

[William Tatum, D.O.](#), Neurology

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