

December 2008

News and information from Mayo Clinic of general interest to physicians.

Regional News

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Patient Care

Mayo Clinic Identifies Best Treatments for Long-Term Survival in Brain Tumor Patients

A new Mayo Clinic study found that patients with [low-grade gliomas](#) survived longest when they underwent aggressive surgeries to successfully remove the entire tumor.

[Video interview](#) with Nadia Laack, M.D.

Mayo Clinic Finds it Generally Safe to Withdraw Anti-Seizure Medication in Children with Epilepsy

A Mayo Clinic study found that it is generally safe to withdraw anti-seizure medications in [children with epilepsy](#) who have achieved seizure-freedom while on the medication. Researchers found that these children were not at high risk of subsequently developing intractable epilepsy.

[Video interview](#) with Katherine Nichels, M.D.

Craniofacial Resection for Skull Base Tumors

The most common causes of malignant [skull base tumors](#) are esthesioneuroblastoma, neuroendocrine carcinoma, sinonasal melanoma, sinonasal undifferentiated tumor, and squamous cell carcinoma. Because skull base tumors can involve the nose and nasal passages and can invade and compress the brain, they are best managed through a coordinated team approach.

Neurostimulation for Chronic Neuropathic Pain Management

Refractory neuropathic pain, one of the most intractable and difficult types of pain to treat, often can be reduced or alleviated through neuromodulation (stimulation) techniques. Most prominent among them is [spinal cord stimulation](#), previously called dorsal column stimulation.

Mayo Clinic Stroke Programs

The administration of tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) in the first three hours can limit the amount of brain tissue injured in an ischemic stroke. Administration of t-PA is one of [10 quality-of-care indicators](#) tracked by Mayo Clinic in Arizona. For the past three years, 100 percent of eligible patients received t-PA within the first three hours after onset.

Mayo Clinic Develops Potential New Therapy to Stop the Progression of Parkinson's Disease

Mayo Clinic researchers have developed a method to reduce the production of alpha-synuclein in the brain. Alpha-synuclein is a protein that is believed to be central to the cause of [Parkinson's disease](#).

[Video interview](#) with Demetrius Maraganore, M.D.

Research

Repairing the Nervous System: Remyelination and Multiple Sclerosis

Acute inflammatory demyelination, limited remyelination, progressive axonal loss, and development of multifocal sclerotic plaques is the typical sequence of injury to the brain in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). Symptomatic treatments are often successful, but no treatment can stop the progression of the disease. So the focus of MS research is [understanding why demyelination occurs](#) and what can be done about it.

The Search for Ictogenesis

Understanding the where and when of seizure initiation (ictogenesis) is as

important to epilepsy research and patient care as discovering the why. A single neuron cannot have a seizure; a seizure requires populations of neurons firing in synchrony. The question asked by two Mayo Clinic neurologists is how many neurons does it take, or, in effect, [what is the smallest anatomic unit that gives rise to a seizure.](#)

Education

Mayo Clinic 4th International Spine Symposium

Feb. 1-5, 2009

This annual five-day CME event features the latest in new treatment strategies and techniques for orthopedists, neurosurgeons and neuroscientists involved in treating patients with spinal disorders. The 2009 program focus is trauma, minimally invasive surgery, and non-operative spine care. The five, half-day sessions are designed to be highly interactive. Attendees and faculty interact in a casual, yet dynamic forum that features debates, panel discussions, case presentations, evidence-based reviews, and the unique "unknowns" challenge, Spinal Curve Ball. Guest faculty are among the top practitioners in the field and ensure a dynamic and challenging learning experience.

- Location: Maui, Hawaii
- Contact: (800) 323-2688 or e-mail cme@mayo.edu

[More info](#)

Electromyography and Electroencephalography in Clinical Practice

March 8-14, 2009

This course is a review of the basic concepts of nerve conduction studies, needle EMG, EEG, evoked potentials, intraoperative monitoring, and autonomic and sleep studies. Techniques, interpretation, and the electrodiagnostic approaches to clinical disorders will be emphasized. The focus is on clinical correlation of

various neurophysiologic tests used to evaluate patients with peripheral nerve and neuromuscular disorders, epilepsy, and sleep disorders. For optimal learning, the program format includes lectures, practical demonstrations, videos, group discussions and workshops. Participants can observe EMG techniques on normal subjects in the laboratory and directly interact with the faculty during the workshops.

- Location: Amelia Island Plantation
- Contact: (800) 323-2688 or e-mail cme@mayo.edu

[Brochure](#)

Neurology in Clinical Practice

July 16-18, 2009

This comprehensive three-day course is directed at practitioners who see patients with a broad range of neurologic disorders. The course is a review of neurology with an emphasis on case-based presentations, recent advances, and evidence-based approaches.

- Location: InterContinental, Chicago, Ill.
- Contact: (800) 323-2688 or e-mail cme@mayo.edu

[Brochure](#)

New Staff and Staff Updates

[Michael Zaccariello, Ph.D.](#)

Interests: Evidence-based approaches to neuropsychological assessment; psychometrics; assessment of cognitive change; epilepsy; and learning disabilities.

Mayo Doctor Receives Parkinson's Award

[Dennis Dickson, M.D.](#), director of the Mayo Clinic Neuropathology Laboratory in Jacksonville, Fla., and principal investigator at the Morris K. Udall Center of

Excellence for Parkinson's Disease at Mayo, received the American Parkinson Disease Association's 2008 Fred Springer Award. The annual award honors an outstanding scientist and/or physician who has made a major contribution toward easing the burden and finding a cure for Parkinson's disease. Dr. Dickson's laboratory serves as the Udall center's brain bank.

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