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IU physicians leading way in stroke prevention

IUSM neurologists and hematologists/oncologists are among the first to use transcranial doppler imaging, a neurologic testing device, in children. The doppler, which is primarily used on adults, is now being utilized to detect stroke risk in children with sickle cell disease.

Approximately 10 percent of children with this disease will have a stroke before the age of 20.

A recent study supported by the NIH reported that stroke risk in children with sickle cell disease is related to flow velocity in the brain. The doppler measures flow velocity and helps physicians predict when a patient is at risk. Sometimes test results will show that the patient has already suffered a mild stroke that went unnoticed, according to Mark Heiny, MD, PhD, assistant professor of pediatrics.

“If a child with sickle cell disease has had a stroke, he or she is likely to have others,” said Dr. Heiny.

To test a child with sickle cell disease, a nickel-sized probe is placed on the child’s head. The doppler measures the blood flow in the brain. If the flow rate is high, this indicates that the vessels are narrow due to damage by sickle shaped red blood cells.

Marc Malkoff, MD, an associate professor of neurology who performs the transcranial doppler studies on patients, recommends that children with sickle cell disease be tested once every six to 12 months.

“Transcranial doppler testing in children is not yet widespread. But with the recent NIH advisory, it’s likely that we’ll see much more of it for patients with sickle cell disease,” said Dr. Malkoff.

Children who are found to be at risk are treated with monthly red cell transfusions which boost their number of normal red cells.

“Transfusions are the only proven effective therapy for stroke prevention in patients with sickle cell

disease. Now with the doppler testing, we can better target patients who are at risk and need the therapy,” says Dr. Heiny, director of the Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic at Riley Hospital and Wishard Health Services.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited disease in which one copy of an abnormal gene is transferred by both parents to their child. The result is the formation of sickle shaped red blood cells in the child. The sickle cells hinder coagulation and damage white blood cells and the vessel walls. When the sickle cells clog the vessel, there is a lack of oxygen to the brain which can result in a stroke and brain damage.

The Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic treats approximately 200 patients from throughout state at Riley Hospital for Children and Wishard Health Services and at satellite clinics in Fort Wayne and South Bend. Staff plan to eventually take a portable doppler on the road when they visit these and other Indiana cities.

BRIEFS

Centers recertified

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma has re-verified the Kiwanis-Riley Regional Pediatric Trauma Center and the IU-Wishard Trauma Center as Level 1 Trauma Centers.

The designations were granted to the centers based on requirements set by the American College of Surgeons.

This is the third Level 1 verification awarded to the IU-Wishard Trauma Center and

NDP workshop

Participants from as far away as Columbia, South America, and the Caymen Islands attended the first seminar conducted by the IU Nicotine Dependence Program to educate health professionals about the diagnosis and management of highly dependent tobacco users.

In all, 31 people attended the workshop which included sessions on how to assess, diagnose and develop

treatment plans, and deliver effective cessation interventions.

Program organizers, Stephen Jay, MD, Arden Christen, DDS, and Debi Hudson intend to conduct two workshops a

Stuart Kleit to retire

Stuart Kleit, MD, associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of medicine, will retire July 31.

A reception honoring Dr. Kleit for his many years of service and contributions to IUSM is planned from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Aug. 3, in the President's Room at University Place Hotel.

"It's been a pleasure to have been part of the Indiana University School of Medicine and to have contributed to the growth and success over the last 30 years," Dr. Kleit said of his tenure. "The university has offered me increasing opportunities to participate in and be part of a great enterprise, the building and operating of Indiana University School of Medicine. I am truly grateful for those opportunities and look forward to continued, although less intense, involvement."

Even though he is officially retiring from IUSM, Dr. Kleit's nameplate will remain in place in the dean's office. He will continue in the position he undertook in 1996 as executive vice president of academic and medical affairs with Clarian Health Partners, as well as continuing to oversee the residency programs at IUSM.

Dr. Kleit holds a dentistry degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a medical degree from the University of Florida. A nephrologist by training, Dr. Kleit came to IU in 1961 for his internship in internal medicine. He then left the school twice, once for a residency in Florida and again in 1965 to serve the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif.

He is a past president of the National Kidney Foundation and was chairman of the National Kidney and Urologic Disease Advisory Board for the NIH from 1987 to 1990.

This past May during Alumni Weekend, Dr. Kleit received the Glenn W. Irwin Distinguished Faculty Award. He has previously been awarded the Martin K. Wagner Award from the National Kidney Foundation and was presented with a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1990.

Herron art has new home at Banta Road

The artwork of five Herron School of Art students and recent graduates will be displayed at the IU Medical Group- Specialty Care (IUMG-SC) Banta Road office.

The cooperative project, organized by IUMG-SC and the Herron School of Art, is designed to showcase the students' work and brighten the surroundings for patients and their families.

The artists whose work is on display include Wendy Barrett, Kwang Cha Brown, Ronald Frank, Michael Jasen and Jeremy McDonnell.

IUSM faculty and staff are invited to a reception in honor of the students from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, at the IUMG facility at US 31 and Banta Road. Tours of the facility will be available.

The event is hosted by IUMG-SC and Herron School of Art.

Honors

Paul Nelson, MD, director of neurosurgery, has been elected for a three-year term as secretary of the Neurosurgical Society of America.

David Burr, PhD, chairman of the Department of Anatomy, has been elected to a three-year term on the executive board of the American Association of Anatomists. Dr. Burr's election to the 2,600-member organization occurred during the Experimental Biology 1998 meeting this spring. He also was elected to the nominating committee of the Orthopedic Research Society at its annual meeting in March.

Richard Gunderman, MD, PhD, assistant professor of radiology, has been named a 1998 Salvatori Fellow by The Heritage Foundation, a public policy research organization. Seventeen college and university professors were named to the one-year terms. They will participate in a program designed to encourage the study and discussion of the ideals and principles that form America's political and cultural traditions.

William Martin II, MD, director of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Occupational Medicine, has been installed as vice president of the American Thoracic Society. He will serve as president of the society from 2000-2001.

Scope on summer break until August

Scope will be on summer break after this issue. We will resume publication August 24.

News items and story ideas will be accepted throughout the summer. Send your items to Mary Hardin, LO 401, or fax them to 278-3502. A third option for submitting items is e-mail them to mhardin@iupui.edu.

Have a pleasant summer.

<http://www.medicine.indiana.edu>