

# Arterial Ischemic Stroke in Children



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**Vascular Neurology Fellow**  
*Department of Neurology*

# Disclosures

- Trained in Austin?



**I WENT TO SXSW ONCE**



**I HATED IT**



# Objectives



- Discuss Epidemiology and demographics of pediatric ischemic stroke
- Identify common presentations
- Identify common causes and risk factors
- Establish junior neuroradiologist status!
- Discuss available treatments

# Ischemic Stroke Epidemiology



- **Overall....**
- **795,000 strokes in the USA.**
- **5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death**
- **Leading cause of morbidity**
- **Increasing age leading risk factor (sorry!)**
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  of all strokes occur age > 65



# Pediatric Epidemiology



- **Kids have stroke?!?**
- **1.2 to 8 cases in 100,000 per year**
  - Annual incidence (1 to 18 years): ~ 3/100,000 per year
  - Likely underestimated
  - Estimations are quite variable depending on the specific community studied
- **Unfortunately, rate continues to increase**
  - **Awareness! (thanks for attending!)**
  - Advances in neuro-imaging
  - Survival of children with previously considered “lethal” congenital heart conditions and leukemia

# EPIDEMIOLOGY



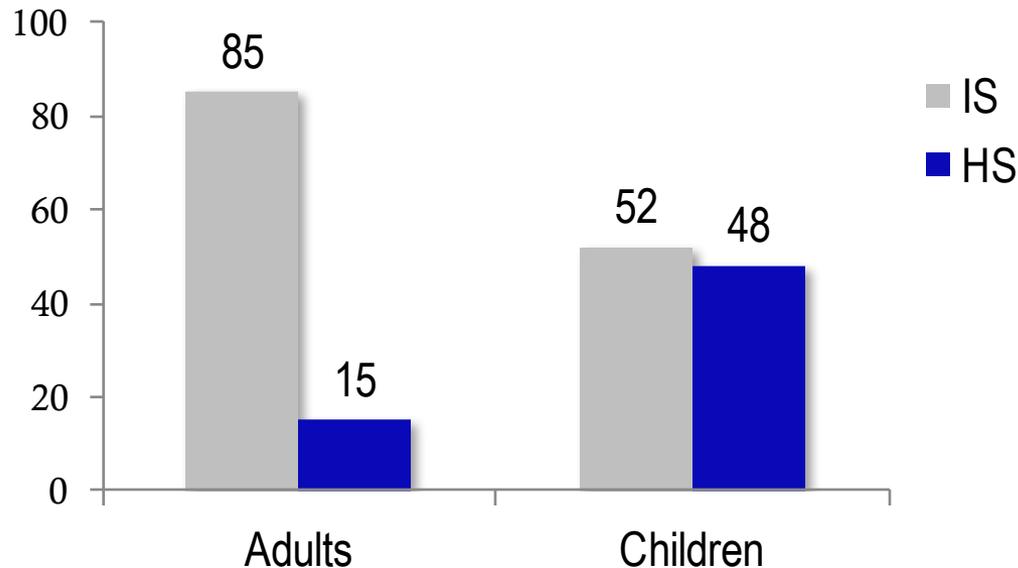
IS and HS occur at approximately the same rate

Boys are at a higher risk (60%)

Pediatric registry with 1187 arterial ischemic and CVT

Black children are at a higher risk

**Not fully explained by the prevalence of SCD in this population**



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## 10 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, United States – 2008

Rank	Age Groups										Total
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Congenital Anomalies 5,638	Unintentional Injury 1,469	Unintentional Injury 835	Unintentional Injury 1,024	Unintentional Injury 14,089	Unintentional Injury 14,588	Unintentional Injury 16,065	Malignant Neoplasms 50,403	Malignant Neoplasms 104,091	Heart Disease 495,730	Heart Disease 616,828
2	Short Gestation 4,754	Congenital Anomalies 521	Malignant Neoplasms 457	Malignant Neoplasms 433	Homicide 5,275	Suicide 5,300	Malignant Neoplasms 12,699	Heart Disease 37,892	Heart Disease 66,711	Malignant Neoplasms 391,729	Malignant Neoplasms 565,469
3	SIDS 2,353	Homicide 421	Congenital Anomalies 170	Suicide 215	Suicide 4,298	Homicide 4,610	Heart Disease 11,336	Unintentional Injury 20,354	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 14,042	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 121,223	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 141,090
4	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 1,765	Malignant Neoplasms 394	Homicide 113	Homicide 207	Malignant Neoplasms 1,663	Malignant Neoplasms 2,504	Suicide 6,703	Suicide 8,287	Unintentional Injury 42,700	Cerebrovascular 114,508	Cerebrovascular 134,148
5	Unintentional Injury 1,315	Heart Disease 186	Heart Disease 97	Congenital Anomalies 161	Heart Disease 4,855	Alzheimer's Disease 81,573	Unintentional Injury 121,902				
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 1,080	Influenza & Pneumonia 142	Benign Neoplasms 59	Heart Disease 132	Congenital Anomalies 467	Diabetes Mellitus 50,883	Alzheimer's Disease 82,435				
7	Bacterial Sepsis 700	Septicemia 93	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 55	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 64	Influenza & Pneumonia 206	Influenza & Pneumonia 48,382	Diabetes Mellitus 70,553				
8	Respiratory Distress 630	Cerebrovascular 63	Cerebrovascular 41	Cerebrovascular 56	Diabetes Mellitus 204	Cerebrovascular 539	Cerebrovascular 2,035	Respiratory Disease 4,392	Suicide 5,465	Nephritis 39,921	Influenza & Pneumonia 56,284
9	Circulatory System Disease 594	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 54	Influenza & Pneumonia 40	Influenza & Pneumonia 49	Cerebrovascular 189	Liver Disease 423	Diabetes Mellitus 1,854	HIV 3,730	Nephritis 4,803	Unintentional Injury 39,359	Nephritis 48,237
10	Neonatal Hemorrhage 556	Perinatal Period 51	Septicemia 25	Septicemia 36	Complicated Pregnancy 169	Congenital Anomalies 379	Septicemia 892	Viral Hepatitis 2,732	Septicemia 4,552	Septicemia 27,028	Suicide 36,035

Ranked Number **8** Among the top 10 causes of death in children



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.  
Produced by: Office of Statistics and Programming, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC.

CS227502

# Clinical presentation?



# Arterial Ischemic Stroke Risk Factors: The International Pediatric Stroke Study

2 Mark T. Mackay, MBBS,<sup>1</sup> Max Wiznitzer, MD,<sup>2</sup> Susan L. Benedict, MD,<sup>3</sup>  
Katherine J. Lee, MSc, PhD,<sup>4</sup> Gabrielle A. deVeber, MSc, MD,<sup>5</sup>  
and Vijeya Ganesan, MD,<sup>6</sup> on behalf of the International Pediatric Stroke Study Group

**Objective:** To describe presumptive risk factors (RFs) for childhood arterial ischemic stroke (AIS) and explore their relationship with presentation, age, geography, and infarct characteristics.

**Methods:** Children (29 days–18 years) were prospectively enrolled in the International Pediatric Stroke Study. Risk factors, defined conditions thought to be associated with childhood AIS, were divided into 10 categories. Chi-square tests were used to compare RFs prevalence across regions and age; logistic regression was used to determine whether RFs were associated with particular features at presentation or infarct characteristics.

**Results:** A total of 676 children were included. No identifiable RFs was present in 54 (9%). RFs in others included

2011

676 children prospectively enrolled

Arterial ischemic stroke  
age 29 days-18 years

# Clinical presentation?



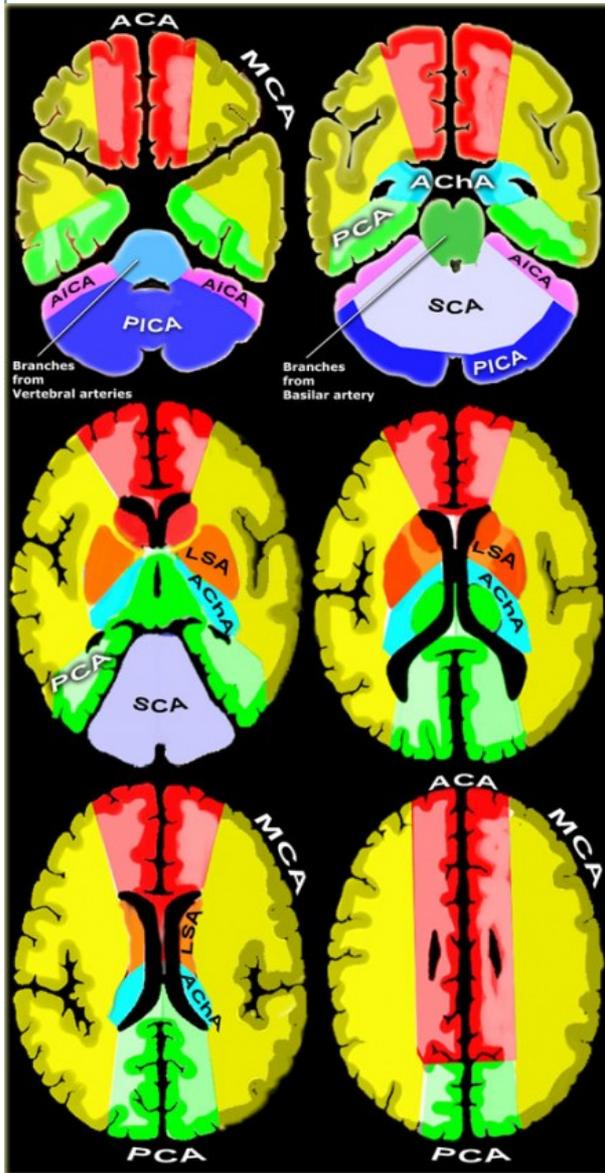
# So what does a stroke look like in a child?

## ● Presenting Symptoms

- 82% focal neurological signs
  - ✦ More common in older children
  - ✦ Of those, 86% had hemiparesis
  - ✦ 45% had speech disturbance
  - ✦ 13% visual disturbance
- 64% had diffuse signs
  - ✦ More common in neonate/younger
  - ✦ Most common was a reduced level of consciousness,
  - ✦ Second is headache
- 31% had seizures at presentation.

<b>A</b> <b>Hemiplegia</b> Arm, body, leg affected on one side	<b>B</b> <b>Diplegia</b> Legs affected more than arms	<b>C</b> <b>Quadriplegia</b> Whole body affected
 <p>Arm turned in and bent Hand fisted, Leg turned in and bent, Tiptoe standing.</p>	 <p>Arms slightly clumsy Legs pressed together and turned in Tiptoe standing</p>	 <p>Poor head control Arms turned in &amp; bent Legs pressed together Tiptoe standing</p>

# Where do they have strokes?



Lesion distribution, n=660<sup>b</sup>

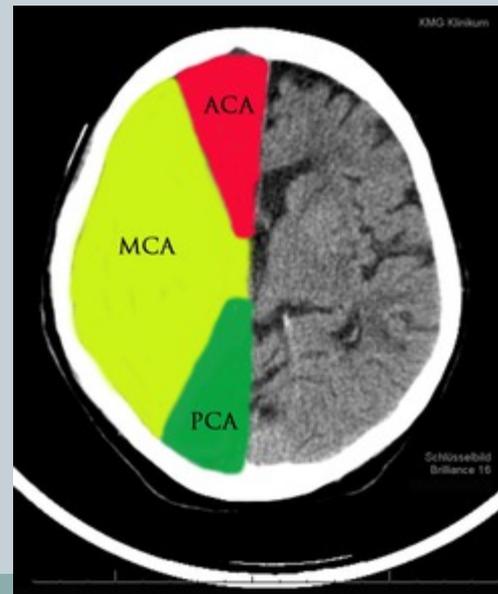
Anterior	445 (67%)
Posterior	143 (22%)
Both	72 (11%)

Number of infarcts, n=618<sup>b</sup>

Single	356 (58%)
Multiple	262 (42%)

Laterality, n=641<sup>b</sup>

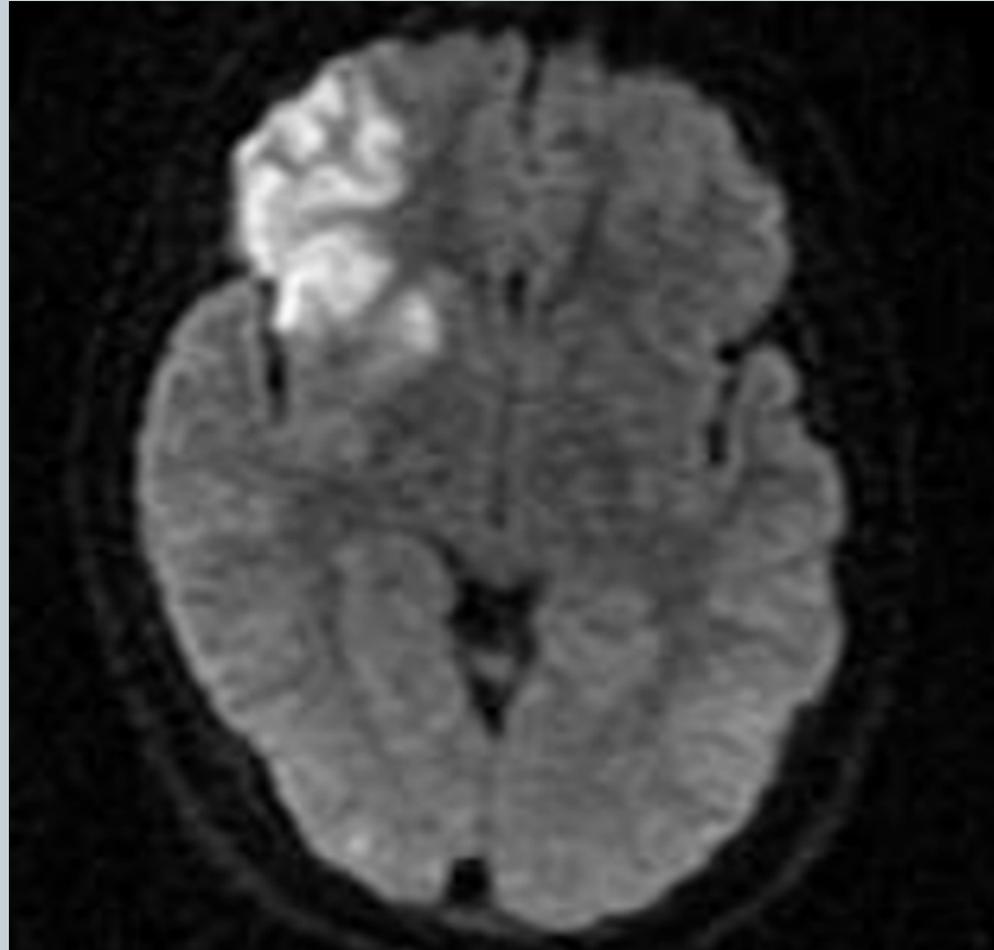
Unilateral	477 (74%)
Bilateral	164 (26%)



# What do they look like on CT?



# What do they look like on MRI?



# Which children get stroke?



- **Common risk factors / etiologies**

**Cerebral arteriopathy (53%)**

**Congenital Heart disease (31%)**

**Chronic systemic conditions (19%)**

**SCD #1**

**Prothrombotic states (13%)**

**And the not so common...metabolic causes**

# ETIOLOGY & RISK FACTORS

**TABLE 1: Prevalence of Risk Factors and Details of Condition**

ANN NEUROL 2011;69:130-140

Risk Factor Category <sup>a</sup>	Diagnoses Included	Frequency, No. (%)
Arteriopathy	Total	277/525 (53%) <sup>b</sup>
	Focal cerebral arteriopathy	69
	Moyamoya	61
	Arterial dissection	56
	Vasculitis	33
	Sickle cell arteriopathy	21
	Post varicella arteriopathy	19
	Other	10
	Unspecified arteriopathy	9

Risk Factor Category <sup>a</sup>	Diagnoses Included	Frequency, No. (%)
Cardiac disorders	Total	204/667 (31%) <sup>b</sup>
	Congenital heart disease	121
	Acquired heart disease	40
	Isolated PFO	31
	<72 hours after cardiac surgery	32
	Previous cardiac surgery	33
	Cardiac catheterization	17
	ECMO	11
	Left ventricular assist device	2
	Arrhythmia	2
	Other cardiac	3

# ETIOLOGY & RISK FACTORS

**TABLE 1: Prevalence of Risk Factors and Details of Condition**

ANN NEUROL 2011;69:130-140

Risk Factor Category <sup>a</sup>	Diagnoses Included	Frequency, No. (%)
Chronic systemic conditions	Total	126/674 (19%) <sup>b</sup>
	Sickle cell disease	39
	Indwelling catheter	23
	Trisomy 21	17
	Other genetic disorders	17
	Hematological malignancy	16
	Iron deficiency	11
	Oral contraceptive pill	5
	Connective tissue disease	4
	Solid extracranial tumors	3
	L-asparaginase	1

Risk Factor Category <sup>a</sup>	Diagnoses Included	Frequency, No. (%)
Prothrombotic states	Total	87/674 (13%) <sup>b</sup>
	Single	67
	Multiple	20
	MTHFR	24
	Elevated Lp (a)	21
	Acquired thrombophilia	20
	FVL	7
	Other genetic thrombophilia	7
	Protein S deficiency	5
	PT20210A	4
	Protein C deficiency	4
	Antithrombin III deficiency	3
	Hyperhomocysteinemia	1
Not specified	4	

# Arteriopathy

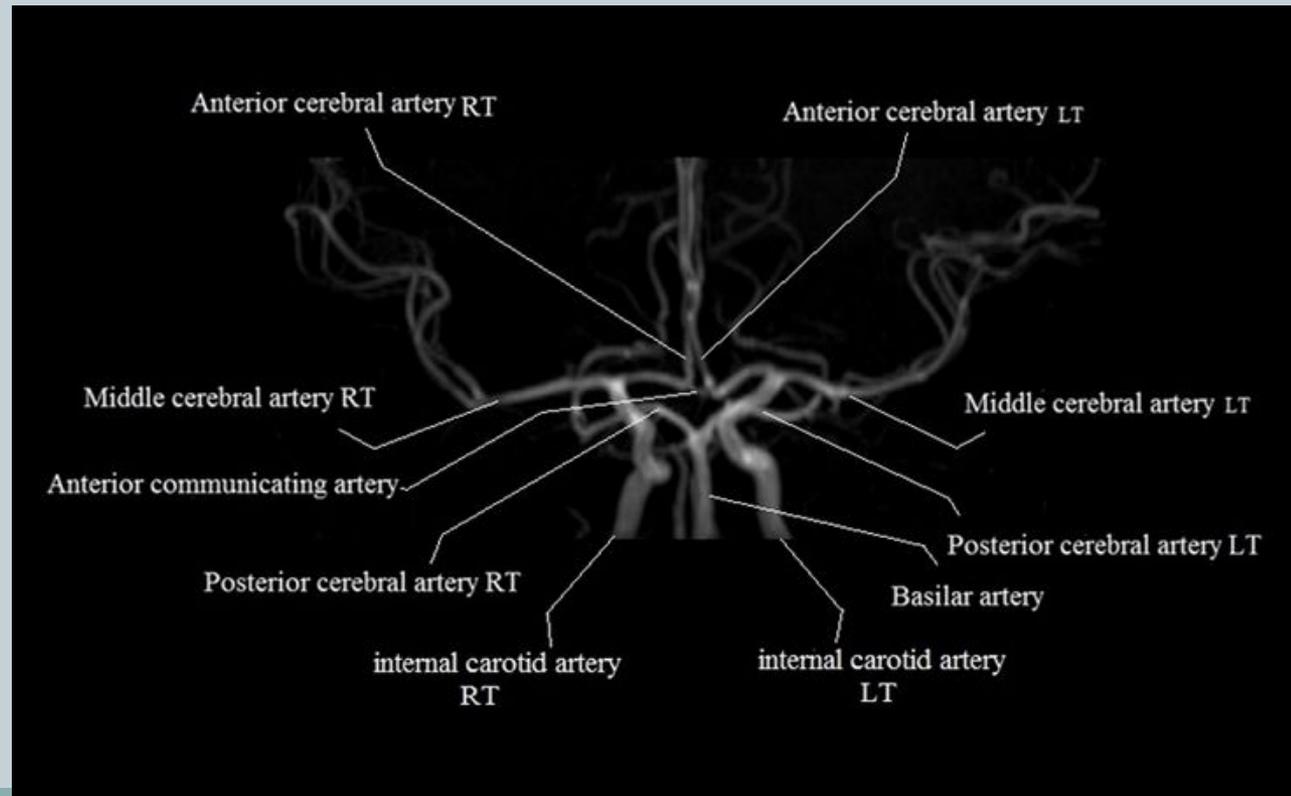
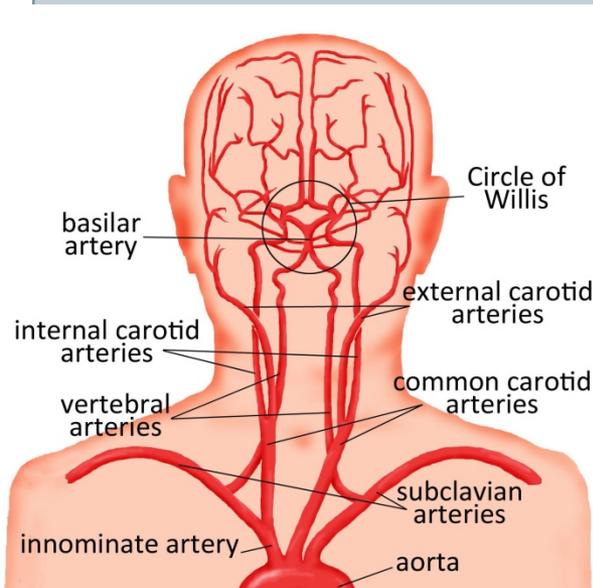


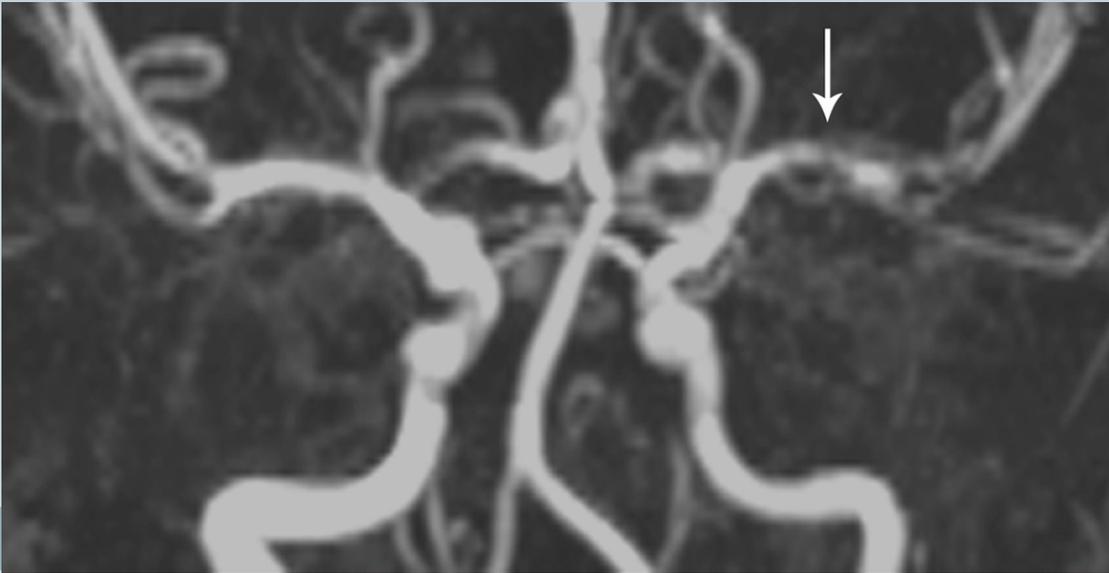
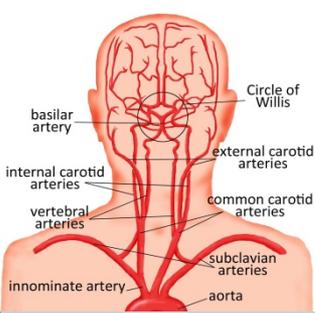
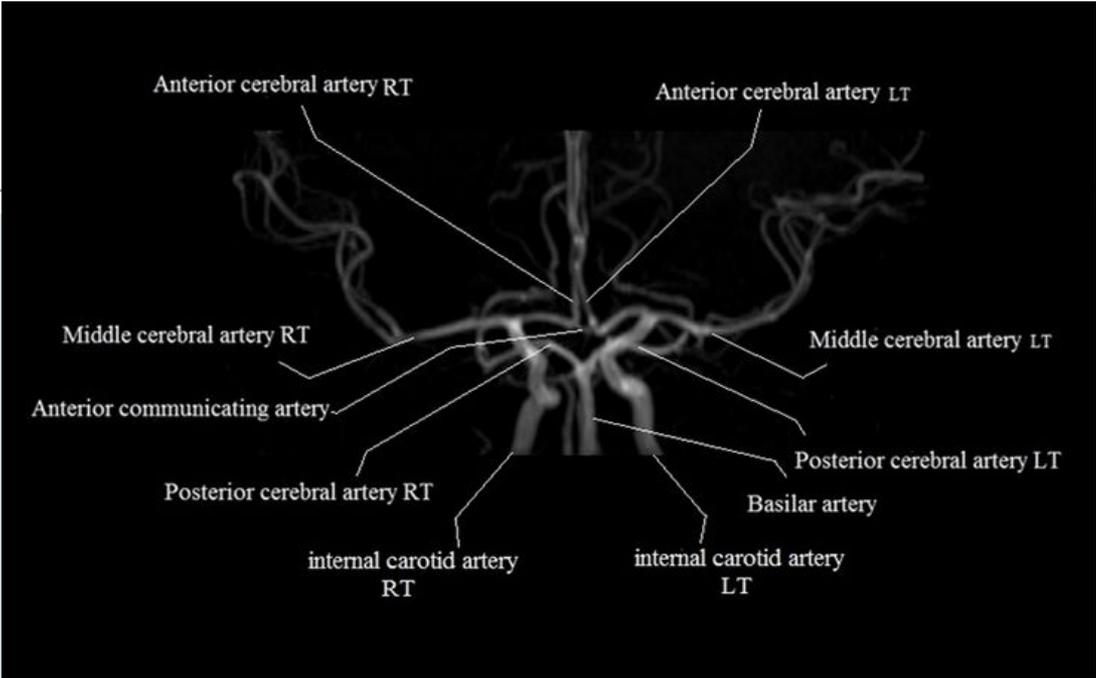
- **Arteriopathy 53%**
  - Focal Cerebral Arteriopathy
  - Moyamoya
  - Dissection
  - Vasculitis

# Focal Cerebral Arteriopathy



- What is it?
  - Focal stenosis of distal carotids or proximal Circle of Willis.





# Focal Cerebral Arteriopathy



- Associated with recent Upper respiratory tract Infx
- Etiology not well understood
  - Multifactorial?
    - ✦ Inflammation (Secondary Vasculitis)?
    - ✦ Spasm?
    - ✦ Thromboembolic?

# Arteriopathy



- **Moyamoya**
  - Hyperplasia (slow process, non-inflammatory) of intracerebral vessels causes narrowing.
  - 0.35 per 100,000
  - Collateralization
    - ✦ Sx appear when stenosis progresses and inadequate collateral supply

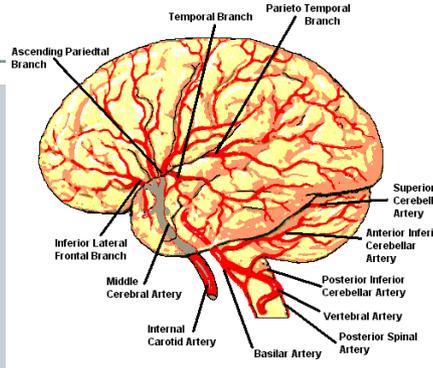
# Arteriopathy



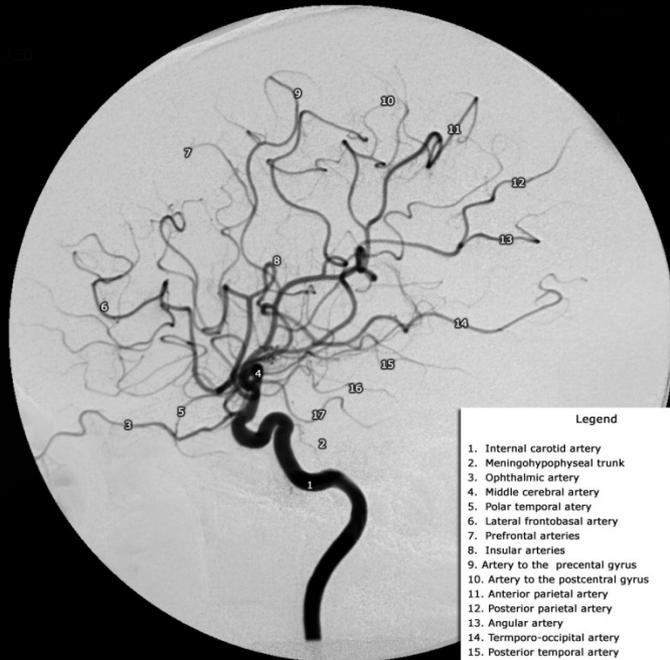
- **Moyamoya**
  - Differences in race and age
    - ✦ Japanese
      - **Bimodal distribution**
      - **First decade of life (AIS)**
      - **30 – 40 years (ICH)**
    - ✦ **North American**
      - **More common 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> decade**
      - **TIA/ischemic**

# Arteriopathy

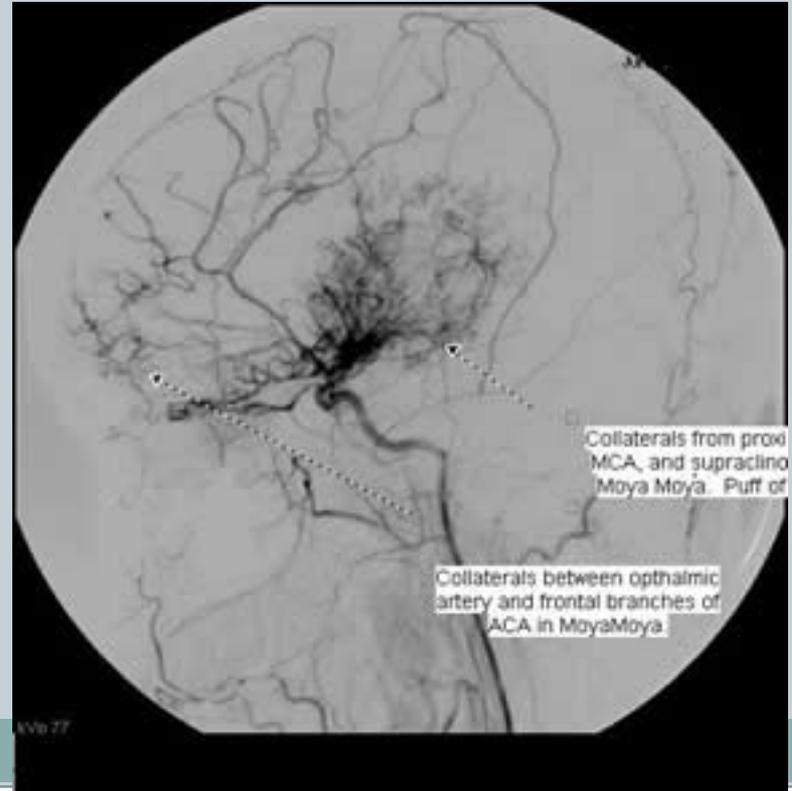
- Moyamoya
- Puff of smoke



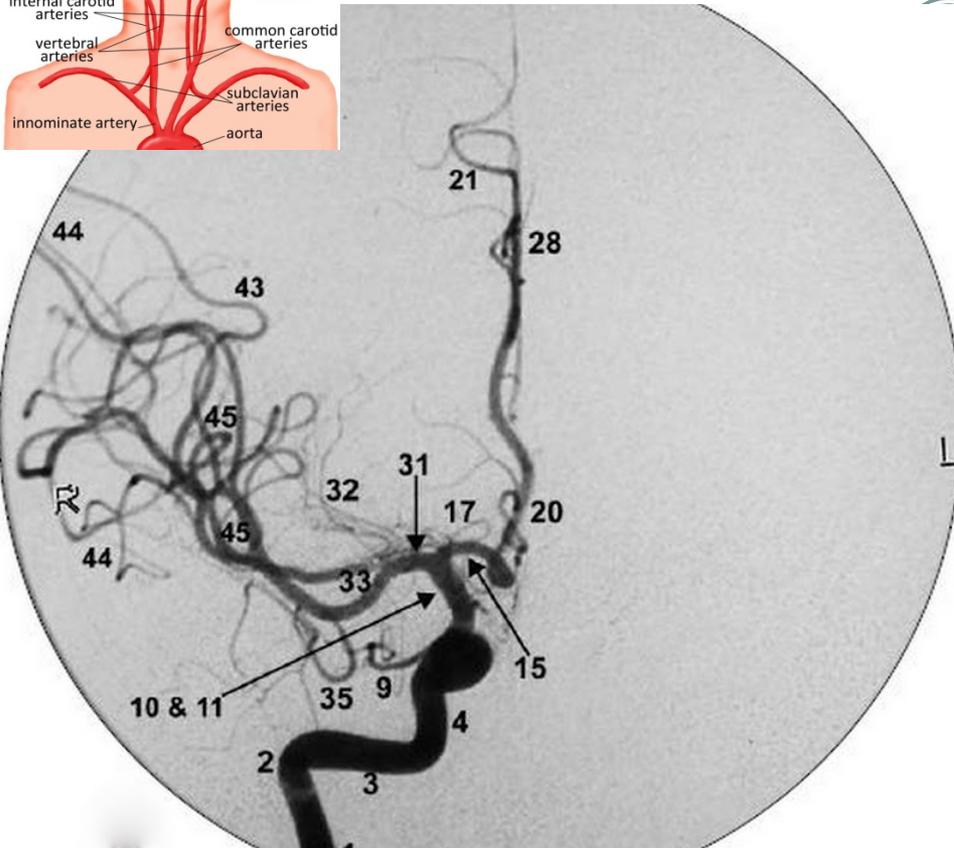
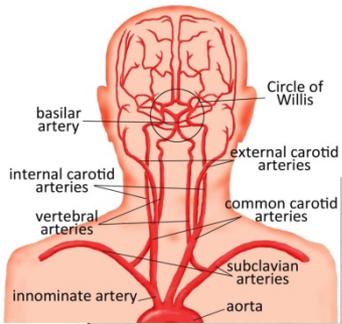
Middle cerebral artery - lateral view



- Legend
1. Internal carotid artery
  2. Meningohypophyseal trunk
  3. Ophthalmic artery
  4. Middle cerebral artery
  5. Polar temporal artery
  6. Lateral frontobasal artery
  7. Prefrontal arteries
  8. Insular arteries
  9. Artery to the precentral gyrus
  10. Artery to the postcentral gyrus
  11. Anterior parietal artery
  12. Posterior parietal artery
  13. Angular artery
  14. Temporo-occipital artery
  15. Posterior temporal artery
  16. Middle temporal artery
  17. Anterior temporal artery

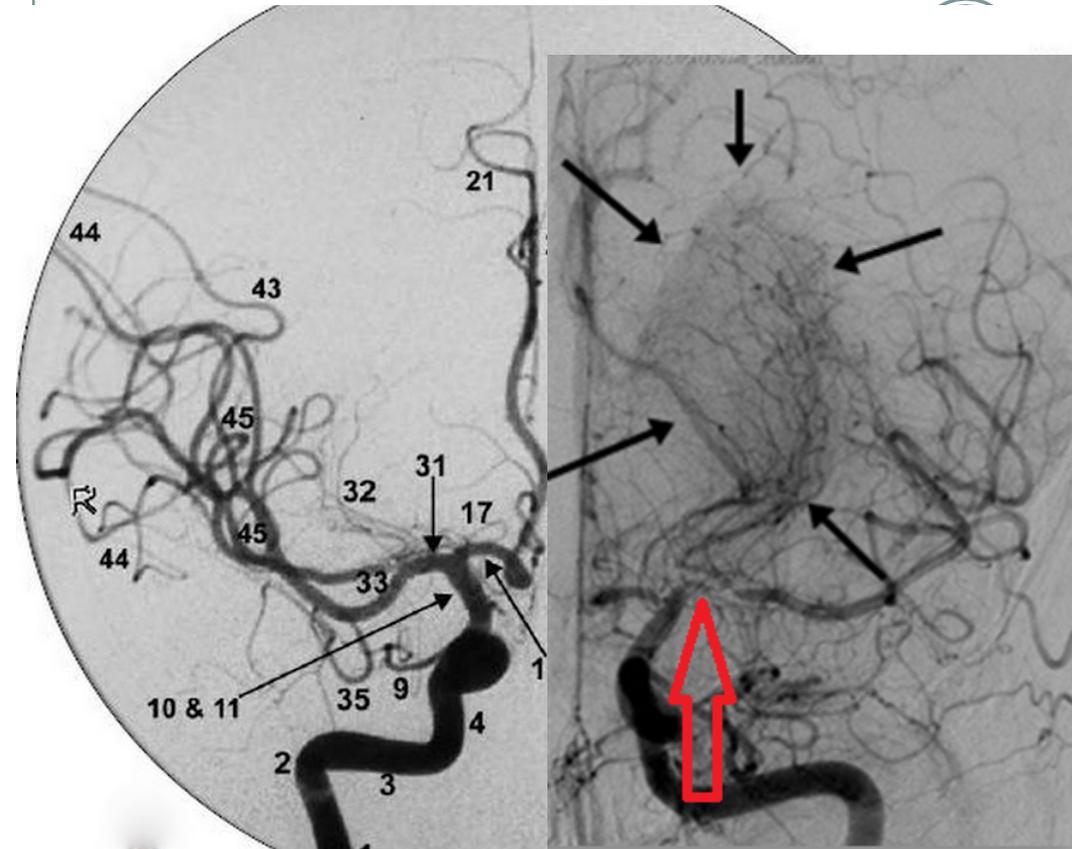


# Arteriopathy



- 1 internal carotid artery – cervical segment
- 2 internal carotid artery – vertical petrous segment
- 3 internal carotid artery – horizontal petrous segment
- 4 presellar (Fischer C5) segment internal carotid artery
- 6 horizontal (Fischer C4) intracavernous internal carotid artery
- 9 ophthalmic artery
- 10 & 11 proximal and distal supraclinoid segment internal carotid artery
- 12 posterior communicating artery
- 13 anterior choroidal arteries
- 14 internal carotid artery bifurcation
- 15 A1 segment of anterior cerebral artery
- 17 recurrent artery of Heubner
- 20 proximal A2 segment anterior cerebral artery
- 21 callosomarginal branch of anterior cerebral artery
- 28 pericallosal branch of anterior cerebral artery
- 31 M1 segment of middle cerebral artery
- 32 lateral lenticulostriate arteries
- 33 bifurcation/trifurcation of middle cerebral artery
- 34 anterior temporal lobe branches of middle cerebral artery
- 35 orbitofrontal branch of middle cerebral artery
- 43 sylvian point
- 44 opercular branches of middle cerebral artery
- 45 sylvian (insular) branches of middle cerebral artery

# Arteriopathy

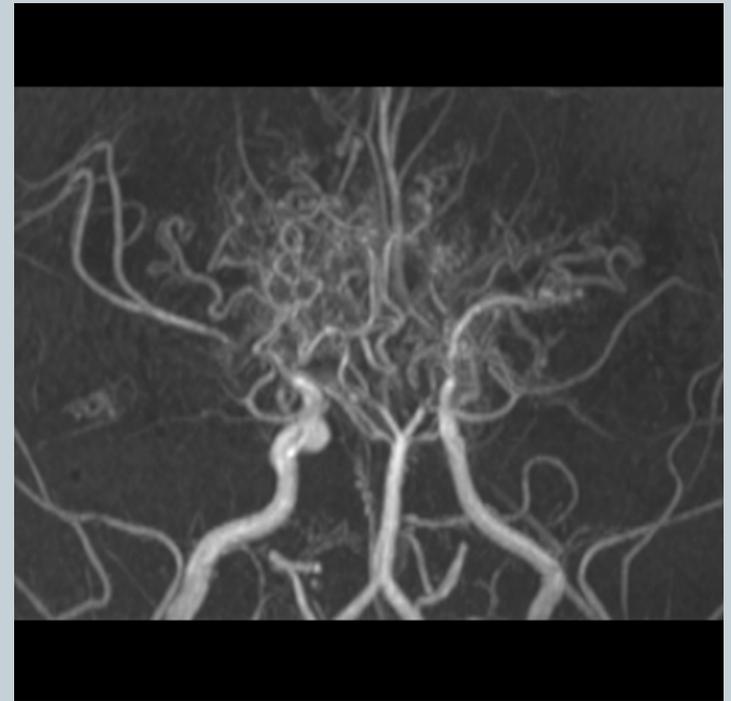
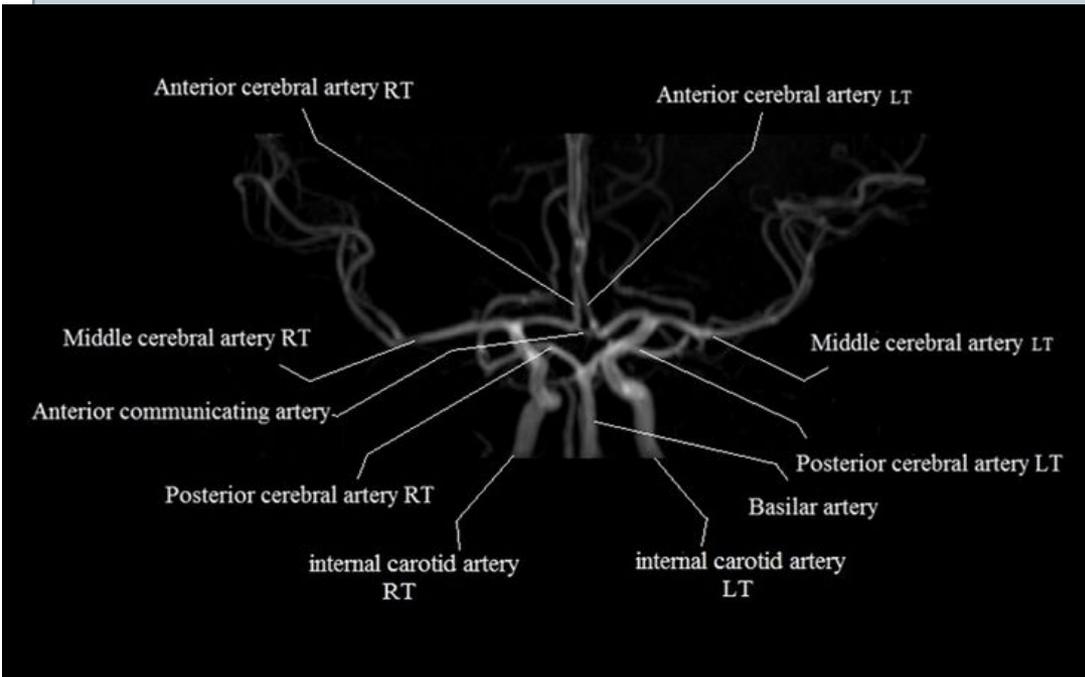


- Internal carotid artery – cervical segment
- Internal carotid artery – vertical petrous segment
- Internal carotid artery – horizontal petrous segment
- Sellar (Fischer C5) segment internal carotid artery
- Horizontal (Fischer C4) intracavernous internal carotid artery
- Inthalmic artery
- 11 proximal and distal supraclinoid segment internal carotid artery
- Posterior communicating artery
- Anterior choroidal arteries
- Internal carotid artery bifurcation
- 1 segment of anterior cerebral artery
- Current artery of Heubner
- Proximal A2 segment anterior cerebral artery
- Callosomarginal branch of anterior cerebral artery
- Pericallosal branch of anterior cerebral artery
- 1 segment of middle cerebral artery
- Lateral lenticulostriate arteries
- Furcation/trifurcation of middle cerebral artery
- Anterior temporal lobe branches of middle cerebral artery
- Bitofrontal branch of middle cerebral artery
- Divian point
- Percular branches of middle cerebral artery
- Divian (insular) branches of middle cerebral artery

# Arteriopathy



- Moyamoya
- Non-invasive imaging



# Arteriopathy

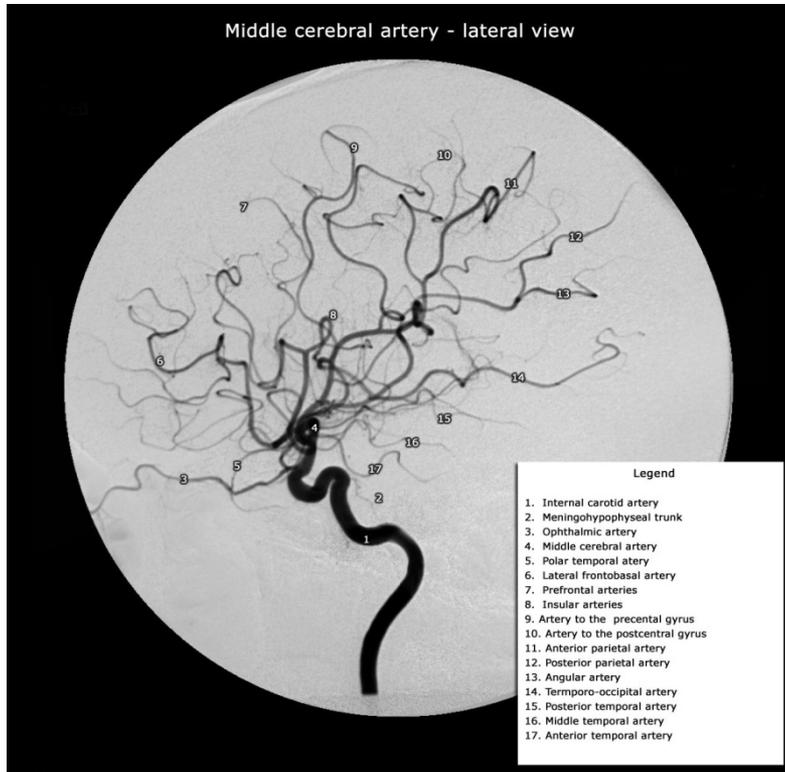


- **Moyamoya**

- **Genetic**

- ✦ RNF213 gene 17q25.
- ✦ ACTA2 gene 10q23.3
- ✦ GUCY1A3 gene 4q32.
- ✦ Down Syndrome
- ✦ NF1

# Moyamoya

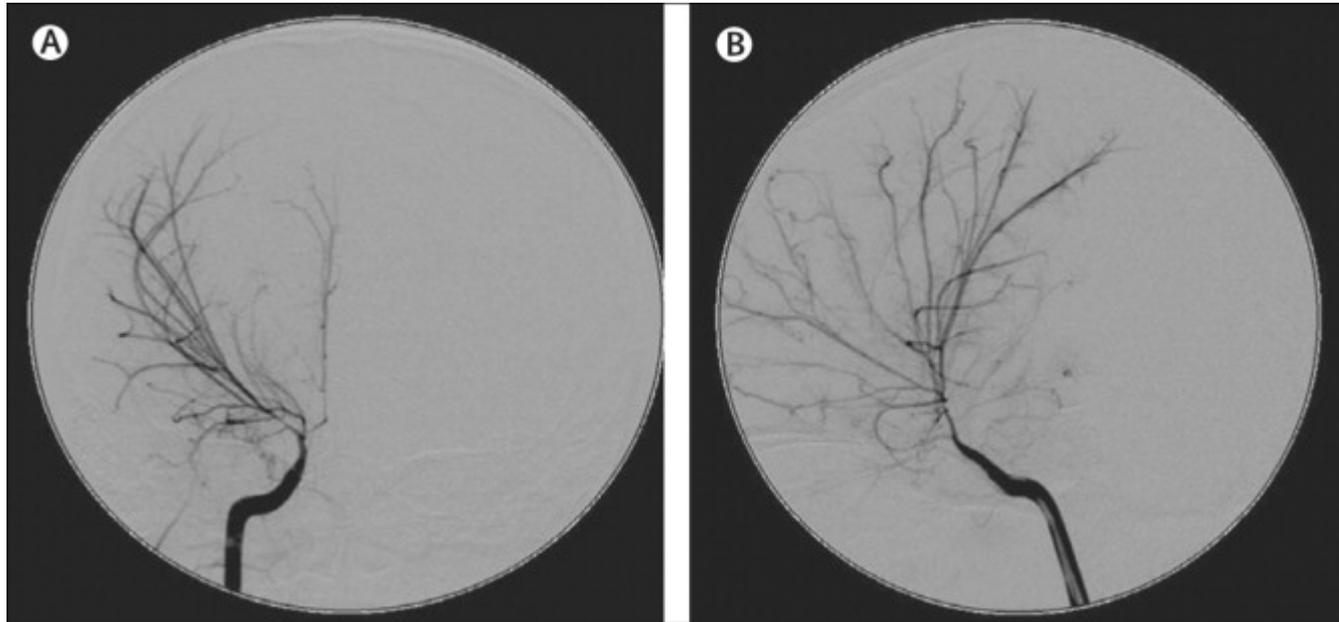


8 year-old boy with Neurofibromatosis Type I

**Lancet Neurol 2011; 10: 264-74**



## Myomoya



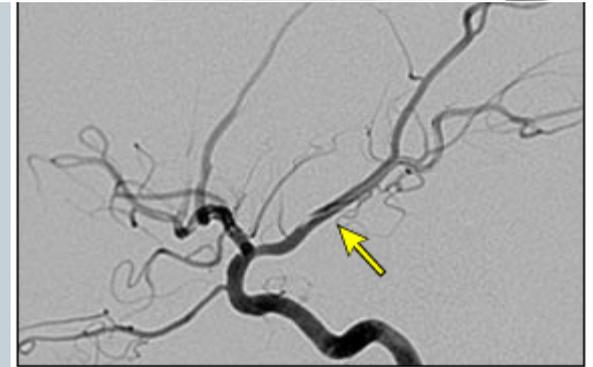
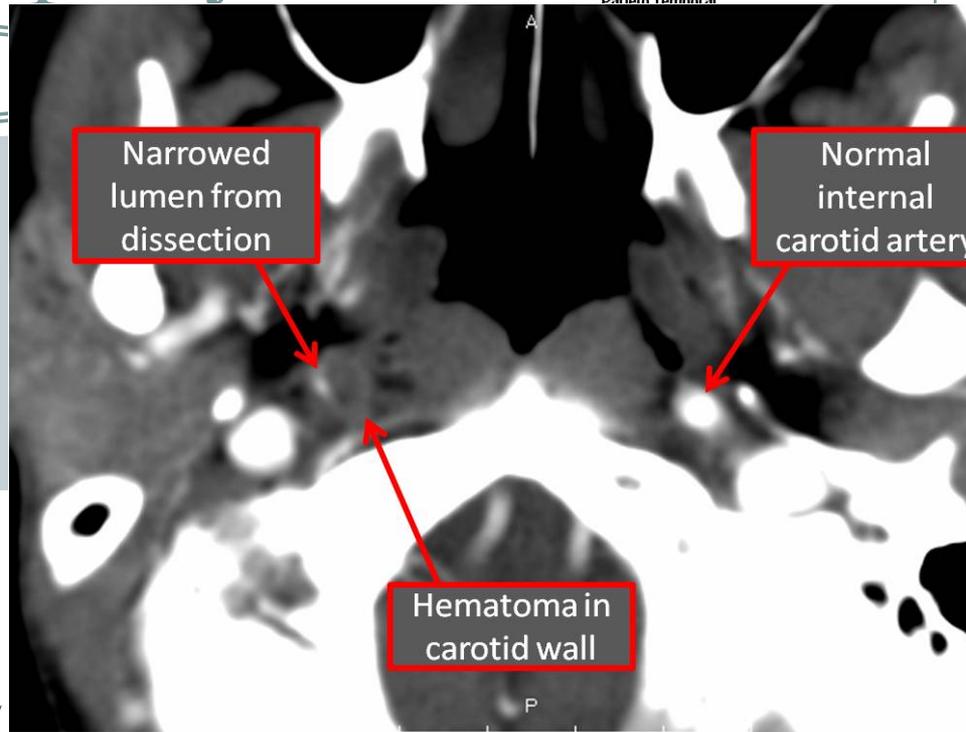
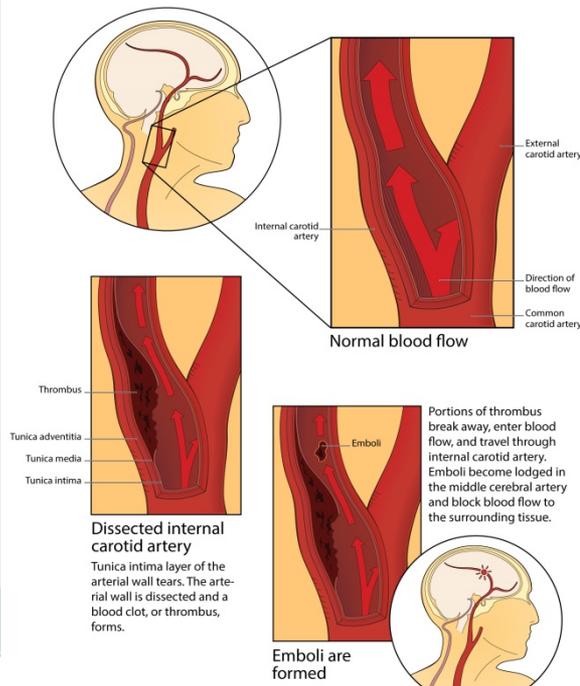
RICA of a 2.5 year old child with left hemiparesis and an R179H mutation in *ACTA2*(A)

*Lancet Neurol* 2011; 10: 264–74

# Arteriopathy

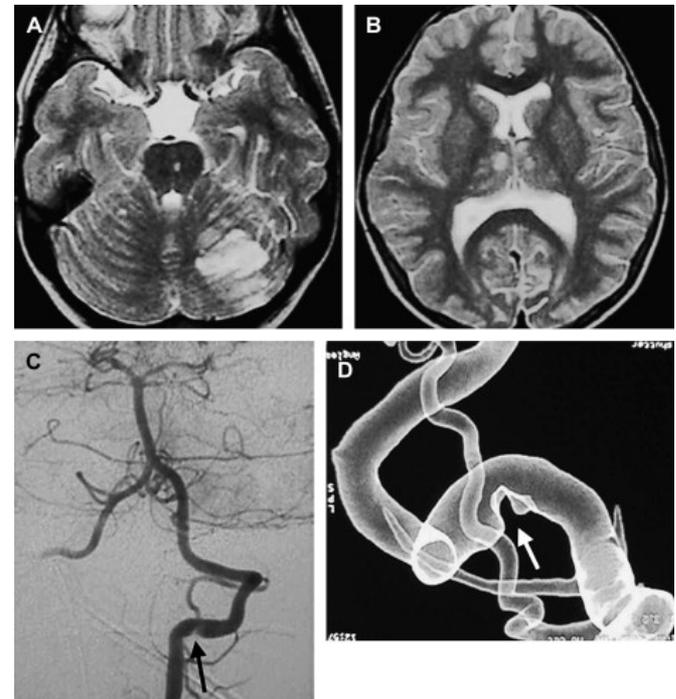
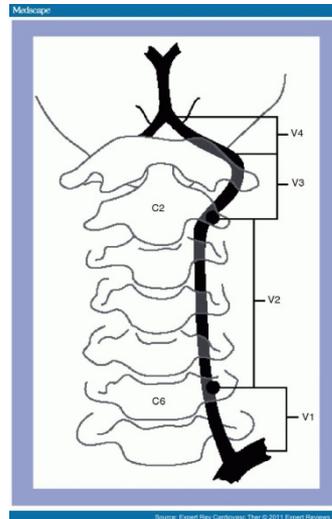
- Dissection
  - Extracranial/traumatic
  - Intracranial/spontaneous
    - ✦ Ehlers Danlos, Marfan's

## DISSECTED INTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY





**Remember the importance to confirm history, trauma, or pre-existing connective tissue disorder.**



**Vertebral dissection with underlying connective tissue disorder.**

**Six-year-old boy presenting with headaches and vertigo with repeated episodes of vertigo 1 month later**

# Arteriopathy



- **Vasculitis (primary vs. secondary)**
  - Inflammation of the cerebral vessels
    - Primary
      - ✦ Takayasu arteritis
        - Inflammatory phase, systemic illness, malaise, fever, fatigue
        - Typically female
        - Unknown cause
        - Often anemia and elevated labs ESR, CRP
      - ✦ Kawasaki Disease
        - Age < 5
        - High fever x 5 days
        - Erythema of the lips or oral cavity
        - rash on the trunk
        - swelling or erythema of the hands or feet
        - swollen lymph node in the neck of at least 15 mm
    - In adults, Polyarteritis nodosa, Wegener's granulomatosis



Child with Kawasaki disease  
(red eyes, dry cracked lips, red tongue)

# Arteriopathy



- **Vasculitis**

- **Secondary**

- ✦ Collagen vascular disorders leading to immune complex deposition

- SLE

- ✦ Infectious

- Bacterial meningitis, CNS TB

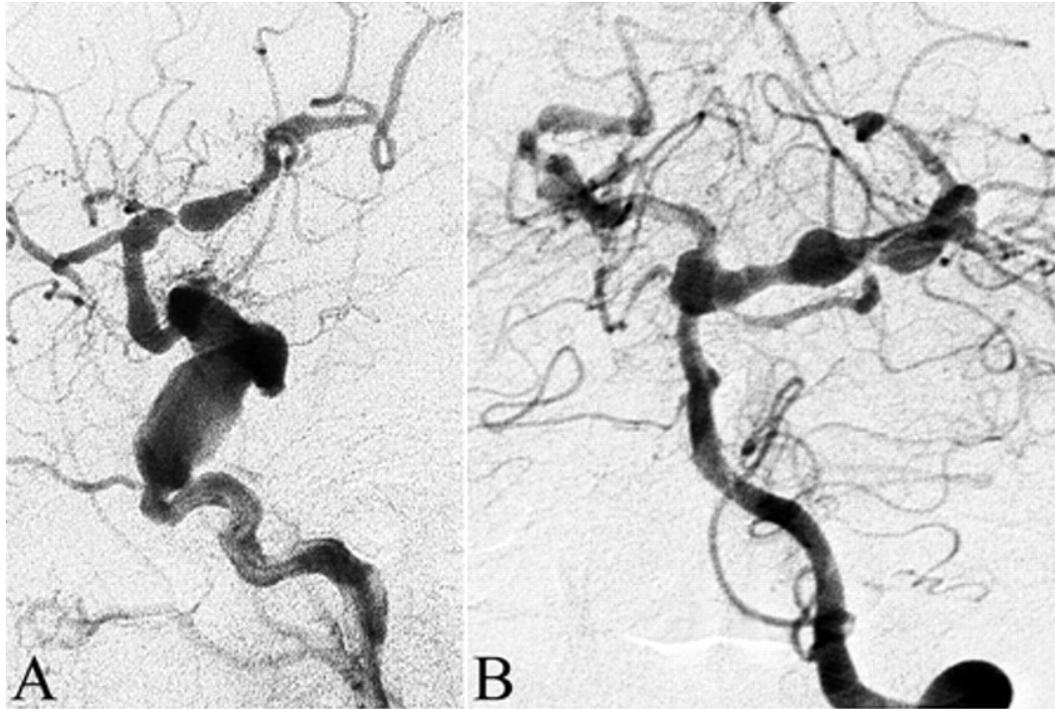
- HIV

- Post Varicella

- **characteristic findings include basal ganglia infarction**
- **Transient cerebral angiopathy: unilateral focal or segmental stenosis**
- **Average age of onset is 5 years**
- **3 – 4 months after chicken pox**



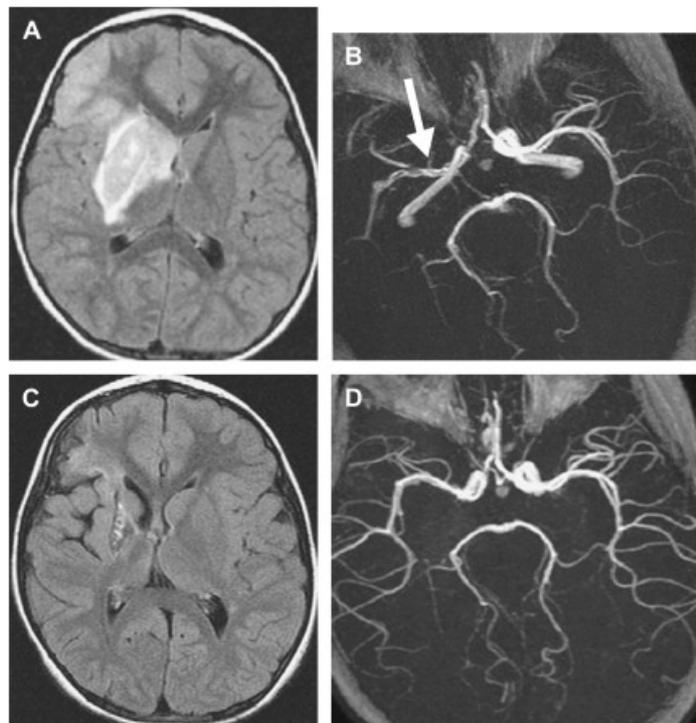
## HIV angiopathy



**16-old boy with HIV presenting with sudden onset right-sided hemiplegia**



## Varicella angiopathy



MCA most commonly affected

Prognosis good

7 year-old girl, 3 months post varicella infection  
presenting with left hemiparesis.

Neuroimag Clin N Am 17 (2007) 175–187

# Cardiac Disorders



- **Cardiac disorders 31%**
  - Occurs in *uncorrected* congenital heart disease
- **Complex right-to-left shunting**
- **Systolic ejection murmur**
  - ASD, VSD
  - Patent foramen ovale (up to 35% between ages 1 to 29)
  - Transposition of great vessels

Neonates with hypoxia

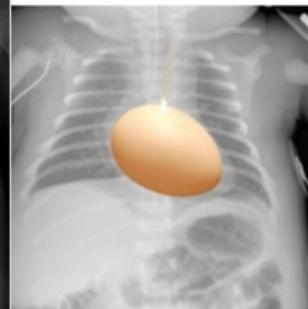
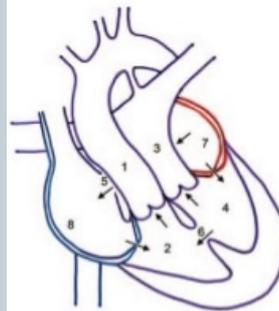
20 : 100,000

Needs an ASD!

Blue Crying  
egg on a string

Transposition of great vessels

EGG ON STRING SIGN



# Cardiac Disorders



## Cerebral Infarction in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

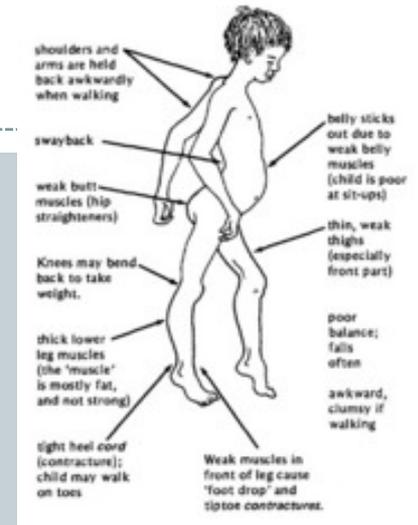
Nina Tsakadze, MD, PhD,\* Lara W. Katzin, MD,\* Sendhil Krishnan, MD,†  
and Réza Behrouz, DO\*†‡

*Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (May-June), 2011: pp 264-265



## Cardiomyopathy with reduced LVEF Muscular dystrophy

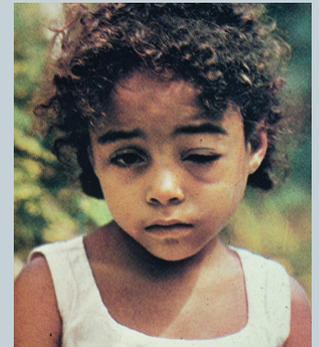
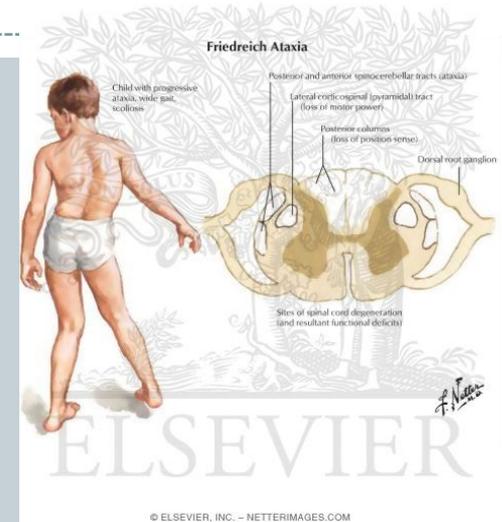
- **Duchenne's, X-linked, 1 : 3,600 boys**
- **Cardiomyopathy common**
  - ✦ 328 pts 1976 – 1987
  - ✦ Pre-clinical cardiac involvement 25% of patients under 6 years old
  - ✦ 59% between the ages of 6 and 10 years
  - ✦ Clinically evident after 10 years of age



# Risk Factors

## Cardiomyopathy with reduced LVEF Friedreich's ataxia

- reduced mito expression frataxin
- neurodegeneration in spinal cord,
- 1:50,000
- staggering, stumbling
- also at risk for afib
- Chagas' disease (Southwestern US!)



# Risk Factors



- These conditions are difficult to dx in an emergent setting.
- Remember, asking family/caretakers of past medical history is crucial!

# Hematologic



- Blood disorders
  - Sickle Cell
  - Prothrombotic disorders
    - ✦ Hypercoagulable disorders to OCP use

# Hematologic



- **Sickle Cell Disease**
  - Ischemic (54%) and hemorrhagic strokes
    - ✦ Age 2-9
  - **Incidence of stroke without intervention 11% by age 20,**
  - **Increased with dehydration, high velocities on TCD, low Hb**
  - **10% will have stroke**
  - **20% silent strokes**
  - **Steno-occlusive arteriopathy**
    - ✦ **Intimal progressive stenosis**
    - ✦ **Abnormal interactions between WBC's, RBC's, platelets, and vascular endothelium**

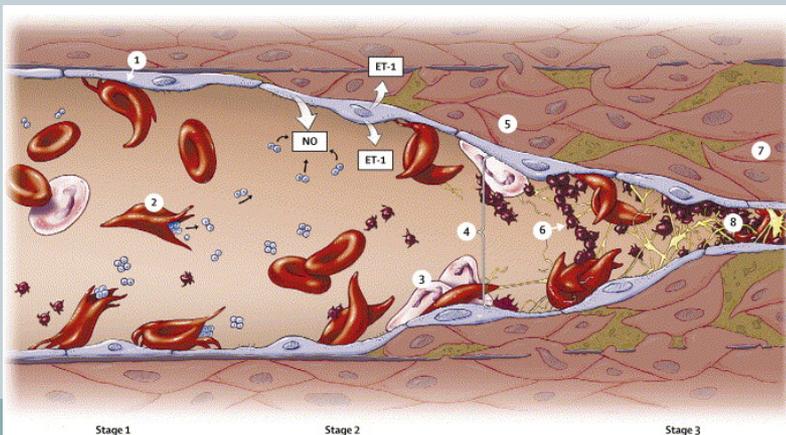
# Hematologic



- Sickle Cell Disease

- TCD screening test for stroke risk in children with SCD

Result of TCD	CBFV (cm/sec)	Frequency of Exam
Normal	< 170	Repeat Annually
Low Conditional	170 - 184	Repeat q 3 months
High Conditional	185 – 199	Repeat q 1 month
Abnormal	> 200	Repeat q month



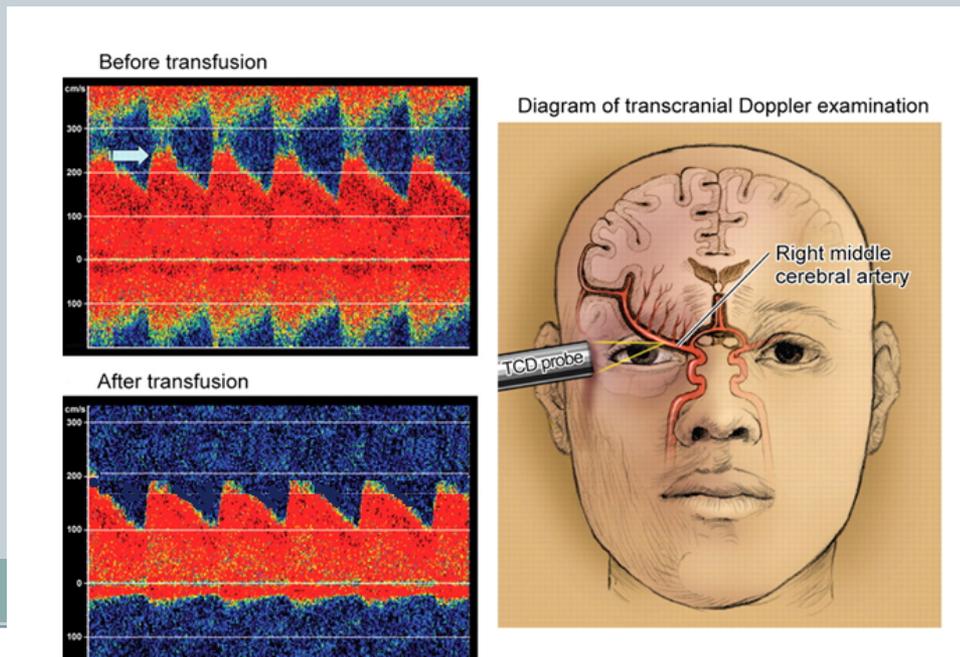
# Hematologic



- **Sickle Cell Disease**

- **Stroke prevention in Sickle Cell Anemia (STOP) trials**

- ✦ **Ages 2-16**
- ✦ **Exchange transfusion: Keep HbS < 30% reduced stroke 90%**
- ✦ **Termination of transfusion in high-risk patients is associated with return of high velocity parameters and stroke risk (STOP II Trial)**



# Risk Factors



- Prothrombotic states
  - Meta analysis 22 observational studies
  - Ischemic stroke associated with:
    - ✦ Protein C deficiency
    - ✦ APS
    - ✦ Factor V Leiden
    - ✦ Elevated homocysteine with MTHFR mutation
    - ✦ Oral Contraceptive with high estrogen content

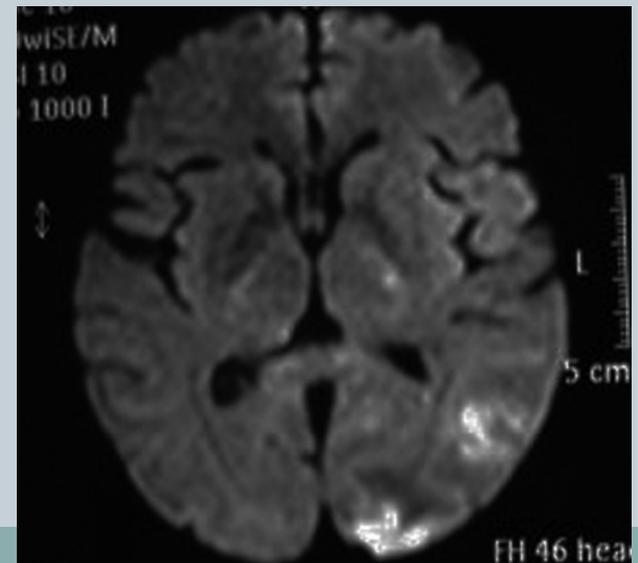
# Risk Factors



- Metabolic causes

- MELAS

- ✦ Mitochondrial encephalomyopathy with lactic acidosis and stroke-like episodes
- ✦ Mutations in mitochondrial DNA
- ✦ RECURRENT metabolic failure stroke, not arterial ischemic
- ✦ Sx appear in childhood (age 2-15)
  - Myalgias, fatigue, seizures
  - Vision loss, hemiparesis, hemisensory loss
  - Progressive, sx additive, cognitive decline



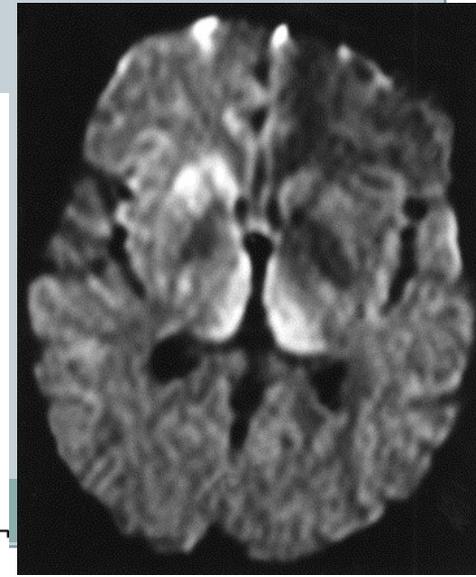
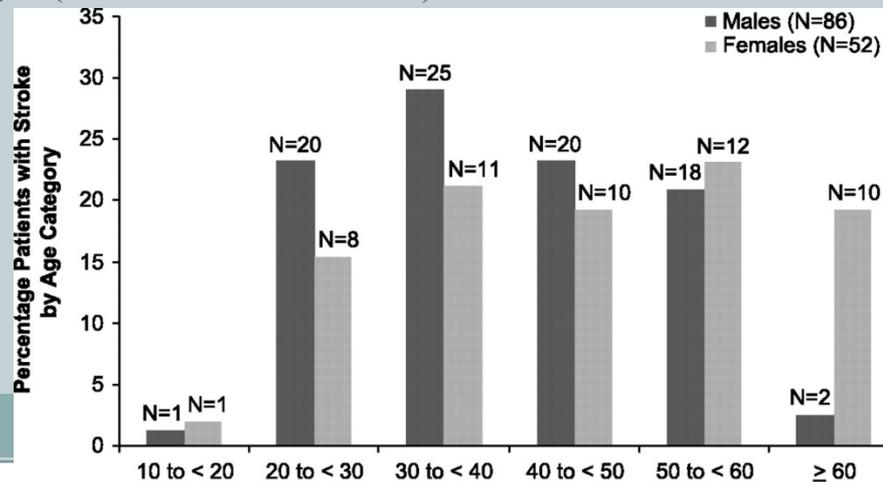
# Risk Factors



- **Metabolic causes**

- **Fabry's Disease**

- ✦ Very rare cause of stroke in children
- ✦ X-Linked
- ✦ Deficiency of alpha-galactosidase A cause glycolipid accumulation within blood vessels
- ✦ Ischemic strokes mainly in the posterior circulation
  - Pulvinar sign (also seen in CJD)



# Specific Treatment therapies

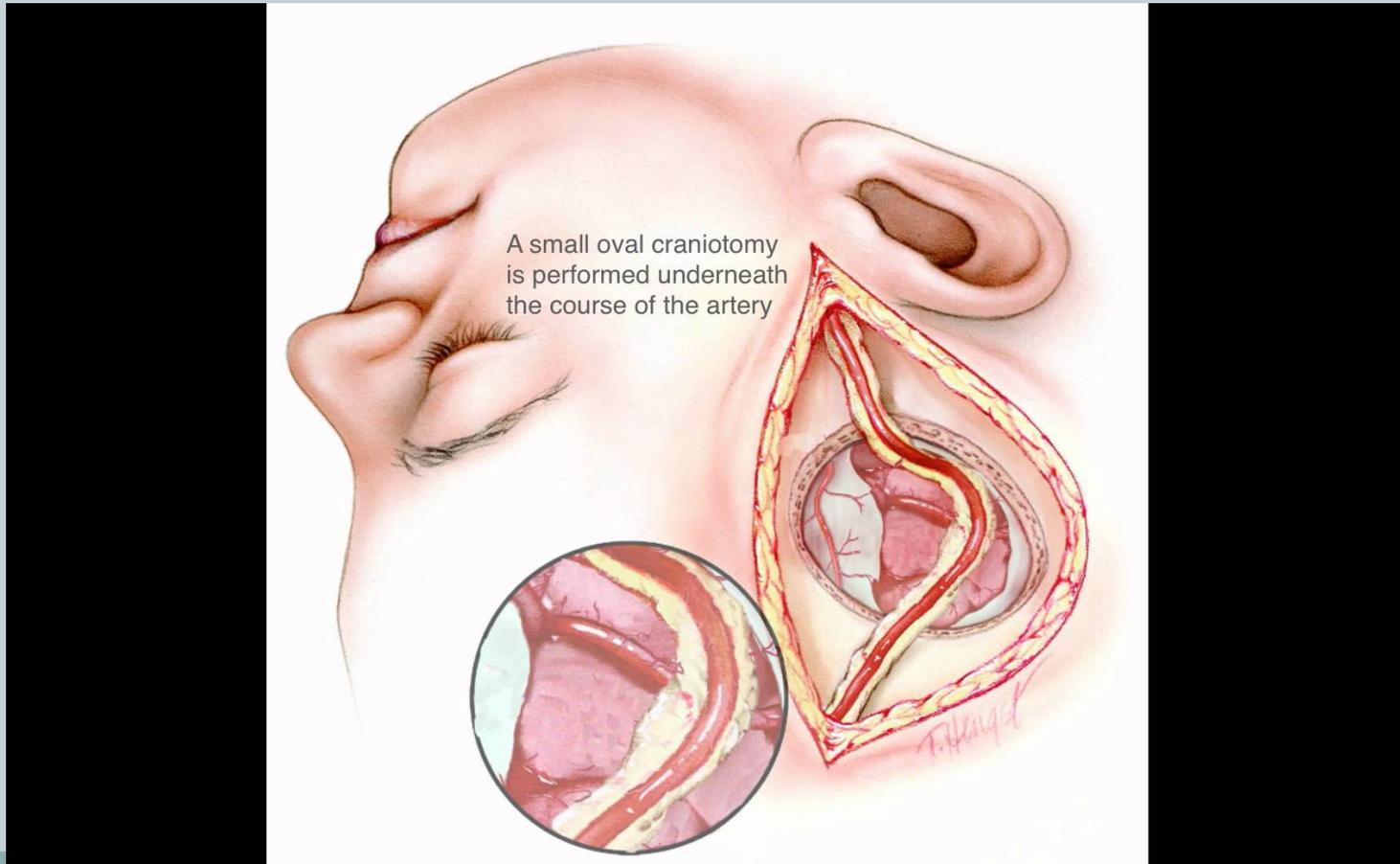


- **Sickle Cell**
  - optimal hydration, correction of hypoxemia, and correction of systemic hypotension
  - Periodic transfusions to reduce the percentage of sickle hemoglobin in children 2 to 16 years of age with an abnormal TCD.
- **Moyamoya with progressive ischemic sx**
  - revascularization
  - Meta analysis 1156 pediatric pts treated direct/indirect, 86% had symptomatic benefit

# Revascularization



- EDAS



# Specific therapies



- **Cardiac Disorders**
  - Correction of congenital anomaly
  - PFO closure may be more beneficial in children with stroke than adults
  - Children with cardiomyopathy and decreased LVEF may benefit from long term anticoagulation
- **Dissection**
  - 2008 pediatric guidelines rec 3-6 months anticoagulation
- **Primary CNS vasculitis**
  - IV Methyl-prednisone 1g daily for 3 days followed by oral prednisolone 60 mg/day, decreasing by 10 mg at weekly intervals to 10 mg/day if possible.
- **Fabry's**
  - Alpha galactosidase replacement
- **Hypercoagulable states**
  - Check homocysteine levels
    - ✦ If high, give **Folic Acid, Pyridoxine, Vitamin B12**
  - Anticoagulation

# So, what can we do?



- Prompt recognition and diagnosis are essential
  - ABC's
  - PMHx history/risk factors
    - ✦ PLEASE get contact info from family members/caretakers
    - ✦ Trauma?
      - Intracranial hemorrhage or ischemia from dissection?
      - Seizure?
        - Todd's paralysis?
    - ✦ Congenital risk factors?
  - Vital signs, EKG, identify obvious other causes for neuro changes
    - ✦ O2 sats (hypoxia, shunt, transposition)

# So, what can we do?



- **Imaging**

- MRI w/o with DWI preferred
  - ✦ Differential is often large, helps identify stroke and mimics
- CT head to evaluate for hemorrhage if STAT MRI unavailable
- CTA/MRA head and neck is helpful to evaluate for dissection, embolism, or arteriopathy (moyamoya)
  - ✦ Gad+? TOF?
  - ✦ Focal occlusion 2/2 embolism from vert dissection vs gradual stenosis from moyamoya.
- CXR can help look for cardiomyopathy

# So, what can we do?



- **Labs**
  - Glucose!
  - CBC, CMP
  - aPTT, PT, INR
  - Toxicology
  - Blood EtOH level
- **If suspicious for vasculitis:**
  - Conventional Angio
  - ESR, CRP, ANA, Varicella titires, HIV

# So, what can we do?



- **Supportive measures**
  - HOB flat
  - Normoglycemia and normothermia
  - IV NS at maintenance rate
  - Permissive modest HTN
  - Supplemental O<sub>2</sub> goal sats > 95%
  - Continuous cardiac monitoring

# Can we use tPA?



- Not FDA approved <18.
- No prospective data available
  - TIPS closed to slow enrollment
- Very few observational reports

# ACUTE REPERFUSION THERAPY

## Use of alteplase in childhood arterial ischaemic stroke: a multicentre, observational, cohort study

*The International Pediatric Stroke Study*

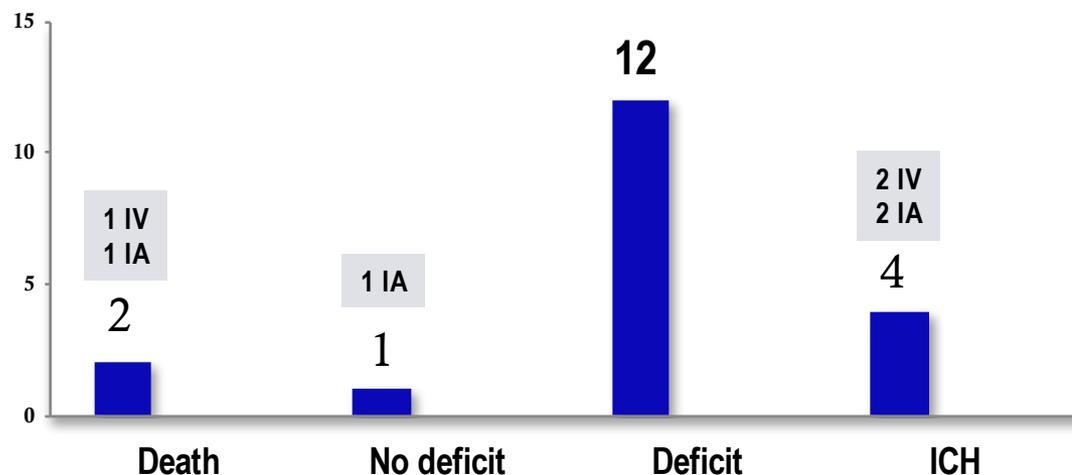
*Lancet Neurol 2009; 8: 530-36*

687 children from around the world

Only 15 (2%) receive rt-PA: 9 IV and 6 IA

The median time to treatment 3.3 h (range 2.0–52.0 h) IV rt-PA

4.5 h (3.8–24.0 h) for IA rt-PA



The 9 patients in the IPSS cohort who received IV rt-PA were mostly younger, waited longer for treatment, and had worse outcomes

# ACUTE REPERFUSION THERAPY

## IV rt-PA – Why can't we just give it?

Between 2000 and 2003, 1.6 percent of children presenting with AIS received thrombolytic therapy (*Janujua et al, 2007*)

A significant pre-hospital and in-hospital delay exists in diagnosis of AIS in children, sometimes up to 12 hours (*Leaker et al, 1996*)

Uncertainty in diagnosis: "stroke mimicker," such as (among others) Todd's paralysis or acute demyelinating encephalomyelitis (ADEM) are more common in children.

Presentation of stroke is different in children than adults

Children seek attention much later than adults

# ACUTE REPERFUSION THERAPY

## IV rt-PA – Why it doesn't work as well?

Arterial AIS is much less common in children than in adults

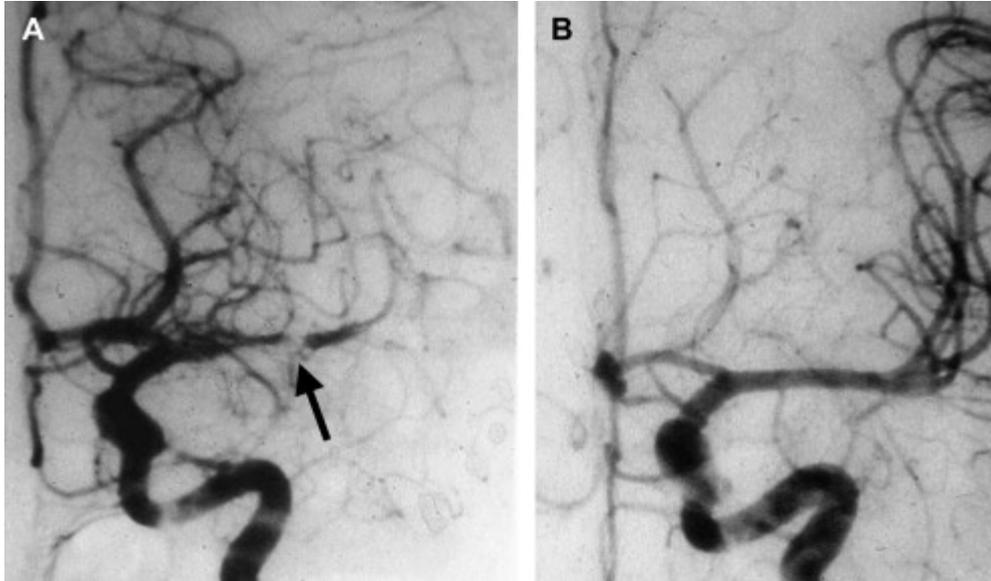
Etiologies and patho-physiological mechanisms of AIS in children are quite diverse and do not necessarily parallel those of adults.

(HTN, DM, tobacco, afib, carotid stenosis)

If the decision to administer IV rt-PA in a child with AIS is finalized, there exists no standard protocol for an appropriate dose or duration of infusion

# ACUTE REPERFUSION THERAPY

## Mechanical embolectomy



Fourteen-year-old girl with sudden onset of right hemiplegia and aphasia.

# OUTCOMES

## **Mortality**

3-11%

## **Persistent neurological deficit**

Up to 66%

## **Recurrent event (long term)**

10-20%

60% in SCD

# Summary



- **Childhood AIS is under-recognized.**
- **Risk factors are etiologies are different than those of adults**
- **Mimics are common (21%)**  
**Seizure, headache, PRES, infection, metabolic**
- **Remember to get contact info for family member**
- **Workup for acute intervention requires multiple imaging modalities.**
- **Treatments are more geared toward individual risk factors.**
- **Prospective trials?**
- **Guideline update?**

"No one is useless in this world who  
lightens the burdens of another."  
*Charles Dickens*

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# Thank you!

