



# Lecture 5&6: Cerebrovascular accidents



- Explain the concepts of brain "Hypoxia", "Ischemia" and "Infarction".

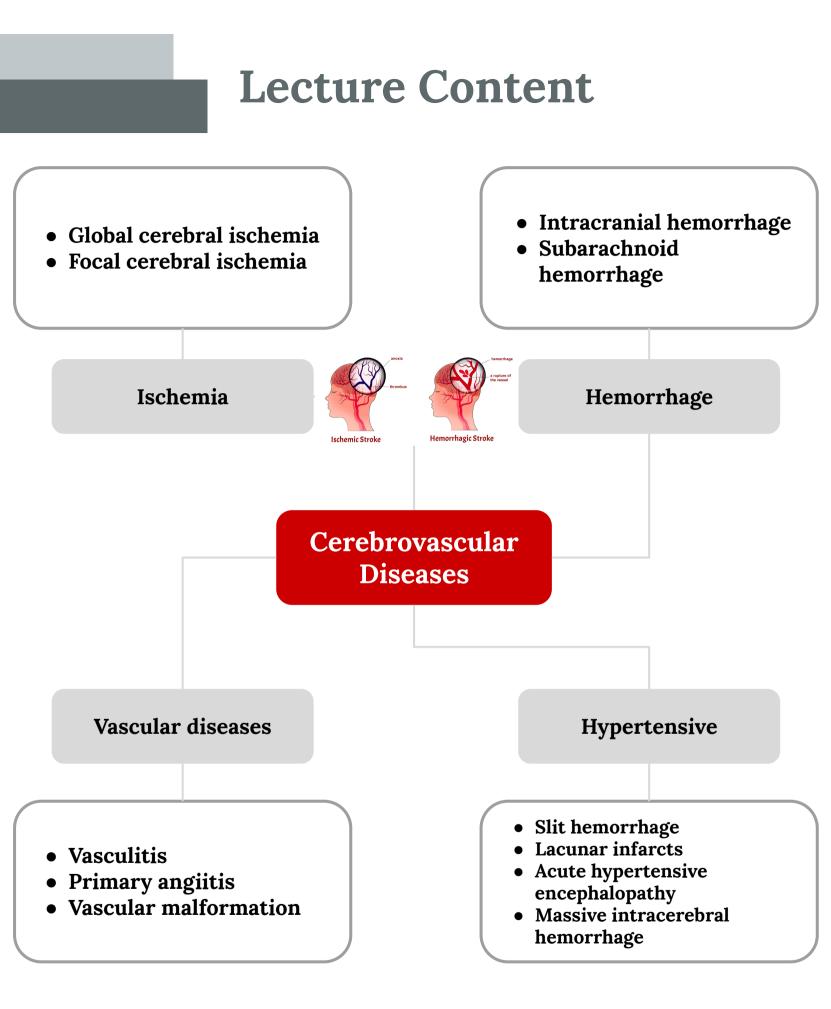
- Understand the pathogenesis of thrombotic and embolic stroke and be able to identify clinical risk factors.

- Identify the causes and consequences of subarachnoid and intracerebral hemorrhage.

- Build a list of the different causes that can lead to cerebrovascular accident

Dark orange: Doctor notes Grey: Extra/Robbins Pink: Only found in girls slides





# Cerebrovascular Diseases



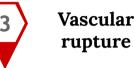
- It is the broad category of brain disorders caused by pathologic processes involving blood vessels.
- The three main **pathogenic mechanisms** are:



Thrombotic occlusion

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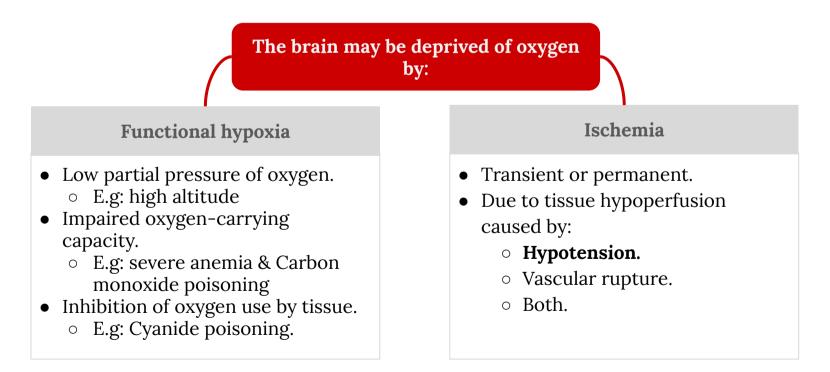
Embolic occlusion



- Cerebrovascular disease is the third leading cause of death (after heart disease and cancer) in the developed world or the United States.
- It is also the most prevalent neurological disorder in terms of both morbidity and mortality

#### Recall..

Hypoxia: Deficiency in the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues.Ischemia: An inadequate blood supply to an organ or part of the body.Infarction: Obstruction of the blood supply to an organ or region of tissue, causing local death of the tissue.



# Stroke

- It is the **clinical term** for a disease with **acute** onset of a **neurologic deficit** as the result of vascular lesions:
  - Hemorrhage accompanies rupture of the vessels and leads to direct tissue damage → secondary ischemic injury.
  - Loss of blood supply: (embolism & thrombosis) have similar consequences for the brain:

■Loss of  $O_2$  & metabolic substrates resulting in → infarction or ischemic injury of regions supplied by the affected vessel.

#### 1 Embolic Stroke

- Intravascular solid, liquid, or gaseous mass that is carried by the blood to a site distant from its point of origin.
- More common than thrombotic

#### Sources of emboli include

- 1. Cardiac mural thrombi<sup>1</sup> (frequent):
  - a. Myocardial infarct
  - b. Valvular disease
  - c. Atrial fibrillation
- 2. **Paradoxical emboli**, particularly in children with cardiac anomalies (e.g. patent foramen ovale).
- 3. **Arteries**; (often atheromatous plaques within the carotid arteries or the aortic arch).
- 4. Emboli associated with cardiac surgery
- 5. Emboli of other material (tumor, fat, or air).

#### 2 Thrombotic Stroke

- The majority of thrombotic occlusions causing cerebral infarctions are due to **atherosclerosis**.
- The most common sites of primary thrombosis:
  - 1. The carotid bifurcation.
  - 2. The origin of the middle cerebral artery.
  - 3. At either end of the basilar artery.
- Thrombotic occlusions usually are superimposed on atherosclerotic plaques<sup>2</sup>, accompanied by anterograde extension, fragmentation, and distal embolization.

2- usually areas of stenosis.

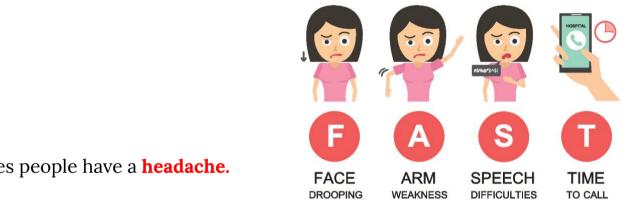
#### Site of emboli

- The territory of distribution of the **middle cerebral arteries** is most frequently affected, since it is parallel with the internal carotid artery.
- Emboli tend to lodge where vessels branch or at stenotic areas caused by atherosclerosis.

<sup>1-</sup> Mural thrombi are thrombi that adhere to the wall of a blood vessel and occur in large vessels.

# **Clinical Presentation Of Stroke**

- Stroke can be asymptomatic or painless, symptoms depend on: •Which part of the brain is injured. •Severity.
- If the brain damage sustained has been slight, there is usually complete recovery, but most survivors of stroke require extensive rehabilitation.
- It is very important to recognize the *warning signs* of stroke and to get immediate medical attention if they occur.



Sometimes people have a **headache**.

Sudden.

- The most common is weakness or paralysis of one side of the body with partial or complete loss of voluntary movement or sensation in a leg or arm.
- Speech problems and weak face muscles, causing drooling.
  - Numbness or tingling is very common.
  - Can affect balance, vision, swallowing, breathing and even unconsciousness. Due to involvement of the base of the brain (brainstem).
    - In cases of severe brain damage, there may be deep coma, paralysis of one side of the body, and loss of speech, followed by death or permanent neurological disturbances after recovery.

# Global Cerebral Ischemia

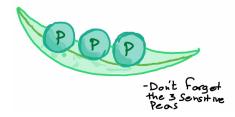
- **Widespread** ischemic/hypoxic injury occurs when there is a generalized reduction of cerebral perfusion (all the brain), usually systolic pressures less than 50 mmHg.
- Causes include:
  - Cardiac arrest
  - Severe hypotension or shock
- The clinical outcome varies with the severity and duration of the insult.
  - **Mild**  $\rightarrow$  transient postischemic confusional state, with eventual <u>complete recovery.</u>
  - Severe global cerebral ischemia → widespread neuronal death occurs, irrespective of regional vulnerability.
- If the patient survives the severe form, he could suffer either:

Persistent vegetative state	Respirator brain
<ul> <li>Severely neurologically impaired</li> <li>Deeply comatose.</li> </ul> It means that the person can't do the routine function by himself like chewing, or urination.	<ul> <li>Meet the clinical criteria for "brain death" including evidence of: <ul> <li>a. Diffuse cortical injury (isoelectric or flat electroencephalogram EEG)</li> <li>b. Brain stem damage, including absent reflexes and respiratory drive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>When patients with this irreversible form of injury are maintained on mechanical ventilation, the brain gradually undergoes an autolytic process.</li> </ul>

#### • Sensitivity to ischemia:

- Neurons are much more sensitive to hypoxia than are glial cells.
- The most susceptible to ischemia of short duration are:
  - $\circ~{\bf P}$ yramidal cells of the hippocampus
  - $\circ~{\bf P}$ yramidal cells of the neocortex
  - **P**urkinje cells of the cerebellum.

Persistent: غيبوبة Respirator: ميت دماغي



# G

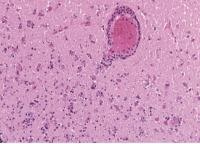
# Global Cerebral Ischemia

#### Gross pathology:

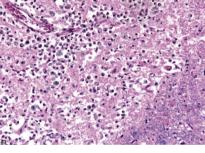
- The brain is **swollen**, with wide gyri and narrowed sulci.
- The cut surface shows **poor demarcation** between gray and white matter.

Microscopic pathology					
Early changes	Subacute changes	Repair			
12 to 24 hours <sup>1</sup>	24 hours to 2 weeks	After 2 weeks			
Red neurons, characterized initially by: - Microvacuolization. - Cytoplasmic eosinophilia. - Nuclear pyknosis. - Karyorrhexis. Similar changes occur later in glial cells.	<ul> <li>The reaction to tissue damage begins with infiltration by neutrophils.</li> <li>Necrosis of tissue, influx of macrophages, vascular proliferation (angiogenesis) and reactive gliosis.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Removal of all necrotic tissue.</li> <li>Loss of organized CNS structure.</li> <li>Gliosis.</li> </ul>			
Sit 2 Park					

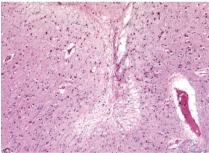
#### Microscopic pathology



Infiltration of a cerebral infarction by **neutrophils** begins at the edges of the lesion where the vascular supply is intact.



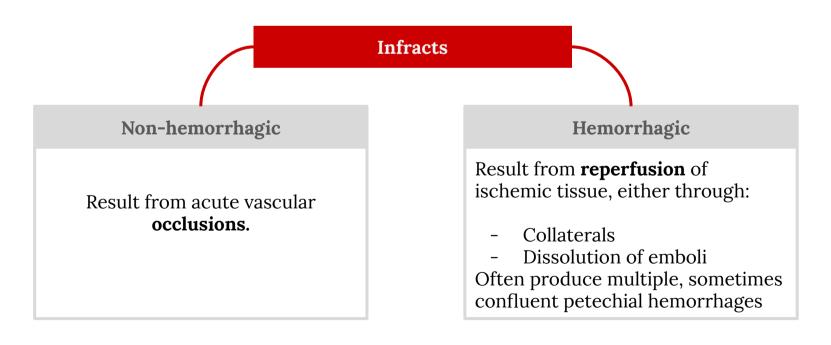
By day 10, an area of infarction shows the **presence of macrophages** and surrounding reactive gliosis.



Old intracortical infarcts are seen as areas of tissue loss with a modest amount of **residual gliosis**.

# Focal Cerebral Ischemia

- What causes focal cerebral ischemia? <u>Cerebral arterial occlusion</u> leads to focal ischemia first, then to an infarction in the distribution of the compromised vessels.
- The size, location, and shape of the infarct and the extent of tissue damage that results are determined by modifying variables, most importantly the adequacy of collateral flow<sup>1</sup>:
  - The **major source** of collateral flow: **circle of Willis (**base of the brain**)**.
  - **Partial** collateralization is also provided over the <u>surface</u> of the brain through **cortical-leptomeningeal anastomoses.**
  - There is **little** if any collateral flow for the deep penetrating vessels supplying structures such as:
    - → Thalamus
    - → Basal ganglia
    - → Deep white matter
- Infarcts can be divided into two groups based on their macroscopic and corresponding radiologic appearance:



<sup>1-</sup> The three organs that have dual blood supply: lungs, brain and gut.

# Focal Cerebral Ischemia

#### Gross pathology: (non-hemorrhagic)

First 6 hours	48 hours	2-10 days	10 days - 3 Weeks
<ul> <li>Irreversible</li> <li>injury, little can</li> <li>be observed.</li> <li>Tissue is</li> <li>unchanged in</li> <li>appearance.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tissue becomes pale,</li> <li>soft, and swollen.</li> <li>The corticomedullary</li> <li>junction becomes</li> <li>indistinct.</li> </ul>	Brain becomes <b>gelatinous</b> and <b>friable</b> , and the boundary between normal and abnormal tissue becomes <b>more distinct</b> as edema resolves in the adjacent tissue that has survived.	Tissue <b>liquefies</b> , eventually leaving a <b>fluid-filled cavity</b> lined by dark grey tissue $\rightarrow$ gradually expands as dead tissue is removed.

#### Microscopic pathology: (non-hemorrhagic)

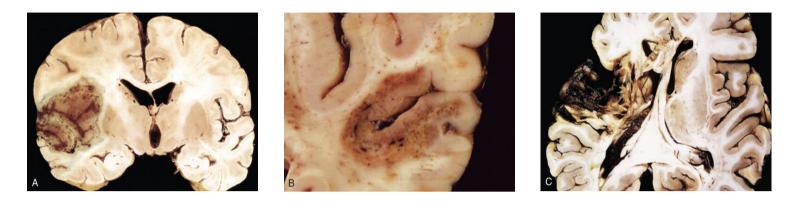
After the first 12 hours	48 hours	2-3 weeks	After several months
<ul> <li>Red neurons and both cytotoxic and vasogenic edema predominate.</li> <li>Loss of the usual characteristics of white and gray matter structures.</li> <li>Endothelial and glial cells, mainly astrocytes, swell.</li> <li>Myelinated fibers begin to disintegrate<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul>	<b>Neutrophil</b> emigration, Followed by mononuclear phagocytic cells.	<ul> <li>Macrophages containing myelin breakdown products or blood may persist in the lesion for months to years.</li> <li>As the process of phagocytosis and liquefaction proceeds, astrocytes at the edges of the lesion progressively enlarge, divide, and develop a prominent network of protoplasmic extensions.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The striking astrocytic nuclear and cytoplasmic enlargement recedes.</li> <li><u>In the wall of the cavity</u>: astrocyte processes form a dense feltwork of glial fibers admixed with new capillaries and a few perivascular connective tissue fibers</li> <li><u>In the cerebral cortex</u>: the cavity is delimited from the meninges and subarachnoid space by a gliotic layer of tissue, derived from the molecular layer of cortex.</li> <li><b>The pia and arachnoid are not affected</b> and do not contribute to the healing process.</li> </ul>

#### Microscopic pathology: (hemorrhagic infarct)

- It parallels ischemic infarction with the addition of:
- Blood extravasation and resorption.
- If the person is receiving anticoagulant treatment, may be associated with extensive intracerebral hematomas.

<sup>1-</sup> Break up into small parts.

# Focal Cerebral Ischemia

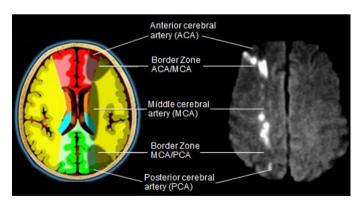


#### Found in girls slides:

- **A.** Hemorrhagic or red infarction: Section of the brain showing a large discolored focally hemorrhagic region in the left middle cerebral artery distribution.
- **B.** An infarct with **punctate hemorrhages**, consistent with ischemia-reperfusion injury<sup>1</sup>, is present in the temporal lobe.
- **C.** Non-hemorrhagic: Old cystic infarct shows destruction of cortex and surrounding gliosis.

#### Border zone (watershed) infracts

- Wedge-shaped areas of infraction that occur in those regions of the brain and spinal cord that lie at the most distal fields of arterial perfusion.
- It is usually seen after **hypotensive episodes**.
- In the cerebral hemispheres, the border zone between the <u>anterior and the middle cerebral</u> <u>artery</u> distributions is at greatest risk.
- Damage to this region produces a band of necrosis over the cerebral convexity a few centimeters lateral to the interhemispheric fissure.





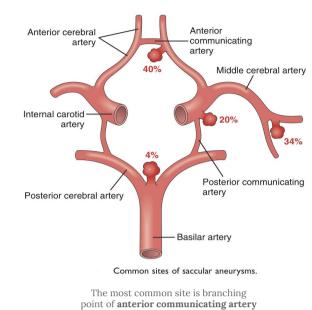
<sup>1-</sup> Outer areas are spared due to an astomosis  $\rightarrow$  Subcortical necrosis

## Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

• Bleeding into the subarachnoid space.

#### **Causes:**

- **Rupture of a saccular (berry) aneurysm<sup>1</sup>** (the most frequent clinically significant nontraumatic cause)
- Vascular malformation.
- Trauma.
- Rupture of an intracerebral hemorrhage into the ventricular system.
- Hematologic disturbances (e.g. coagulopathies).
- Tumors.



#### **Incidence:**

- Between 25-50% of individuals die from the first rupture, although those who survive typically improve and recover consciousness within minutes.
- **Multiple aneurysm** exist in 20–30% of cases. Although they are sometimes referred to as congenital, they are not present at birth but **develop over time** because of underlying defect in the vessels media.

#### Prognosis

• The prognosis worsens with each episode of bleeding.

#### Location

• About 90% of saccular aneurysm occur in the **anterior circulation** near major arterial branch points.

#### Symptoms

• Patient stricken with sudden, excruciating **headache** (described as "the worst headache I've ever had") and rapidly **lose consciousness**.

<sup>1-</sup> Media layer of a blood vessel fails to develop at the branching points leading to weakness of the wall and cause saccular outpouching which is called Berry aneurysm and eventually  $\rightarrow$  rupture.

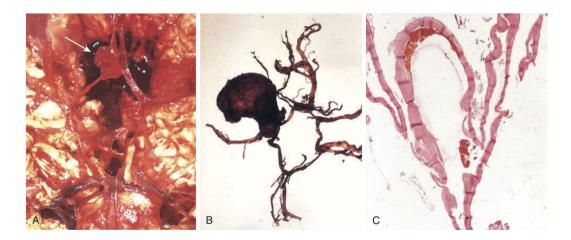
## Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Cont.

#### **Risk factors**

- Rupture can occur at any time, but in about one-third of cases it is associated with acute increase in **intracranial pressure**, such as with straining at stool or sexual orgasms.
- The probability of aneurysm rupture increases with the **size** of the lesion; an aneurysm greater than 10mm has a roughly 50% risk of bleeding per year.
- In the early period after a subarachnoid hemorrhage, there is a risk of additional ischemic injury from **vasospasm** involving other vessels.

#### After injury

- **Recurrent bleeding** is common in survivors, currently it is not possible to predict which individuals will have recurrences of bleeding.
- In the healing phase **meningeal fibrosis** and **scarring** occur, sometimes leading to **obstruction of CSF flow** as well as interruption of the normal pathways of **CSF resorption** leading to **hydrocephalus**.



- **A.** View of the base of the brain, dissected to show the circle of Willis with an aneurysm of the anterior cerebral artery (arrow).
- **B.** The circle of Willis is dissected to show a large aneurysm.
- C. Section through a saccular aneurysm showing the hyalinized fibrous vessel wall. H&E stain.

### **Intracranial Hemorrhage**

• Hemorrhage within the brain (bleeding into the brain parenchyma)

#### Causes (can occur secondary to the following):

- Hypertension.
- Other forms of vascular wall injury (e.g. vasculitis).
- Arteriovenous malformation and cavernous malfunction.
- Intraparenchymal tumor.
- Cerebral amyloid angiopathy<sup>1</sup>
- Hemorrhage associated with the dura (in either **subdural** or **epidural** space) make up a pattern associated with **trauma**.

## Hypertensive Cerebrovascular Disease

Hypertension causes several changes on the brain, including::

- It affects **deep penetrating arteries** and arterioles supplying the:
  - Basal ganglia
  - Hemispheric white matter
  - Brain stem.
- Hyaline arteriolar sclerosis in arterioles → weaker than normal vessels and are more vulnerable to rupture.
- Chronic hypertension is associated with the development of **minute aneurysms** (charcot bouchard microaneurysms), in vessels that are less than 300  $\mu$ m in diameter, which can rupture.

<sup>1-</sup> Amyloid deposition in the walls of medium and small caliber meningeal and cortical vessels, which weakens vessels wall and increases the risk for hemorrhage.

## Hypertensive Cerebrovascular Disease

#### Effects of hypertension on the brain include:

#### Slit Hemorrhage

- Rupture of the small **caliber penetrating vessels** leads to development of small hemorrhage.
- Hemorrhages resorb, leaving behind a <u>slit like cavity</u> surrounded by brownish discoloration (iron from blood).

#### Lacunar Infarcts

- Small cavitary infarcts (due to occlusion of small penetrating vessels<sup>1</sup>)
- Mostly in **deep grey matter** (basal ganglia and thalamus), internal capsule, deep white matter, and pons.
- Consist of **cavities** formed by degeneration of brain tissue with scattered **lipid laden<sup>2</sup> macrophages** surrounding gliosis.
- Depending on their CNS location, they can either be clinically **silent** or cause **significant neurologic impairment**.

#### Acute hypertensive encephalopathy

- A **clinicopathologic syndrome**: **Diffuse** cerebral dysfunction, including headaches, **confusion**, vomiting, and convulsions, sometimes leading to coma.
- Does not remit spontaneously
- May be associated with an **edematous brain**, with or without transtentorial or tonsillar herniation.

#### Microscopically:

• **Petechiae and fibrinoid necrosis of arterioles** in the gray and white matter.

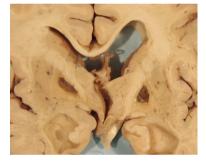
#### Massive intracerebral hemorrhage

• Massive hypertensive hemorrhage rupturing into the lateral ventricle.

2- Source of the lipids is myelin









<sup>1-</sup> Most commonly the lenticulostriate branches of the MCA which can be of thrombotic origin.

# Vascular Diseases

#### Vasculitis

- Infectious arteritis of **small and large** vessels:
  - Previously associated with **syphilis** and **tuberculosis**.
  - Now occurs more in the setting of immunosuppression and opportunistic infection (such as toxoplasmosis, aspergillosis, and CMV encephalitis).
- Systemic forms of vasculitis, such as **polyarteritis nodosa**, may involve **cerebral vessels** and cause single or multiple infarcts throughout the brain.

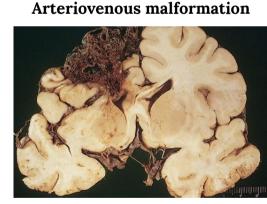
#### Primary angiitis of the CNS

- An inflammatory disorder involving multiple **small to medium-sized** parenchymal and subarachnoid vessels.
- Affected individuals manifest a diffuse encephalopathic clinical picture, often with **cognitive dysfunction**.
- Improvement occurs with steroid and immunosuppressive treatment.

#### Females slides only:

#### Vascular malformation

- Classified into four principal types based on the nature of the abnormal vessels:
  - Cavernous malformations
  - Capillary telangiectasias
  - Venous angiomas.
  - Arteriovenous malformations (AVM):
    - The most common, affect males as twice as females.
    - Most commonly manifest between the ages of (10-30 years) with seizures, an intracerebral hemorrhage, or a subarachnoid hemorrhage.
    - The risk of **bleeding** makes AVM the most dangerous type.
    - Multiple AVMs can be seen in the setting of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (autosomal dominant condition), often associated with mutations affecting TGFβ pathway.



#### So what can cause or contribute to a stroke?

- Hypertension
- Atherosclerosis
- Thrombophilia (e.g. Sickle cell anemia)
- Embolic diseases
- Systemic hypoperfusion/Global hypoxia (e.g. shock)
- Vascular malformations
- Vasculitis
- Tumors
- Venous thrombosis
- Amyloid angiopathy (leptomeningeal and cortical vessels)

#### **DID YOU KNOW!**

• Brain tissue ceases to function if deprived of oxygen for **more than 60 to 90 seconds** and after approximately three hours, will suffer irreversible injury possibly leading to death of the tissue.

#### Homework

What are the risk factors of stroke ?













Old age

Adult male

Obesity Hypertension

**High Cholesterol** 

Define Transient ischemic attack ?

Smoking

• Regional Ischemia that results in neurological deficits with symptoms lasting less than 24 hours. Is like a stroke, producing similar symptoms, but usually lasting only a few minutes and causing no permanent damage.

# Summary

Cerebrovascular diseases have three main pathogenic mechanisms: **1-** Thrombotic occlusion **2-** Embolic occlusion **3-** Vascular rupture



A disease with acute onset of a neurologic deficit occurring as the result of vascular lesions, either hemorrhage or loss of blood supply.

VS

#### Thrombotic stroke:

- Thrombotic occlusions are due to **atherosclerosis**
- The most common sites of primary thrombosis:
  - a) The carotid bifurcation.
  - b) The origin of the middle cerebral artery.
  - c) At either end of the basilar artery.



- More common than thrombosis.
- Sources of emboli include:
- a) Cardiac mural thrombi.
- b) carotid arteries.
- c) Paradoxical emboli.
- d) Emboli after cardiac surgery.
- e) Emboli of other material (tumor,fat or air).
- Most affected site: middle cerebral arteries

#### Global Cerebral Ischemia:

Etiology: severe hypotension, shock and cardiac arrest.

Clinical outcome:

If mild  $\rightarrow$  transient confusional state, with complete recovery

If severe  $\rightarrow$  diffuse necrosis, survival leads to vegetative state or respirator brain .

#### The most susceptible cells to ischemia of short duration are:

Pyramidal neurons in Pyramidal cells of the Purkinje cells of the cerebellum. the neocortex. hippocampus. Microscopically: Subacute Early Repair changes changes 12 to 24 hours 24 hours to 2 weeks After 2 weeks 1. Pyknotic nuclei (Red 1. infiltration by 1. Glial scar neutrophils. neurons) 2. necrosis, macrophages, 2. Eosinophilic vascular proliferation cytoplasm 3. reactive gliosis.

# Summary

#### Focal Cerebral Ischemia:

1 Non Hemorrhagic infarcts

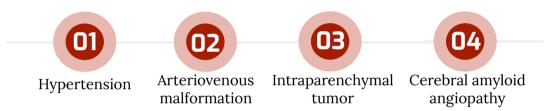


#### Border zone ("watershed") infarcts:

- infarction that occur in those regions of the brain and spinal cord that lie at the most distal fields of arterial perfusion especially the **border zone area** lying between regions fed by **the anterior and middle cerebral artery**.
  - Caused by: hypotensive episodes

#### Intracerebral (Intracranial) hemorrhage:

Secondary to:



#### Subarachnoid Hemorrhage:



ocation

sudden excruciating headache (worst headache of my life!)

1-Rupture of a berry aneurysm († intracranial pressure) 2-Vascular malformation 3-Hematologic disturbances 4-Rupture of an intracerebral hemorrhage into the ventricular system 5-Trauma 6-Tumors

Mostly in the anterior circulation near major arterial branch points (Recurrent bleeding is common in survivors)

#### Hypertensive Cerebrovascular Disease:

effects of hypertension on the brain include:

1- Massive hypertensive intracerebral hemorrhage 2- Lacunar infarcts 3- Slit hemorrhage
 4- Acute hypertensive encephalopathy

#### Vasculitis: Primary angiitis:

An inflammatory disorder that involves parenchymal and subarachnoid vessels. Patients manifest a diffuse encephalopathic with cognitive dysfunction.

#### Vascular Malformations:

Classified into four principal types: 1- AVMs 2- Cavernous Malformations 3- Capillary Telangiectasis 4- Venous Angiomas

# Quiz

# Q1: Which of the following is not a common site of primary thrombosis in the brain:

- **A)** The carotid bifurcation
- **B**) The anterior cerebral artery
- **C)** The origin of the middle cerebral artery.
- **D)** At either end of the basilar artery

### Q2: Which one of the following is the pathogenesis of "watershed" strokes?

- A) Thromboembolism
- **B**) Sagittal sinus thrombosis
- C) Spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage
- **D**) Prolonged hypotension

#### Q3: A 82-year-old male had a cerebrovascular accident causing left hemiplegia, the neurologist told the patient's son that it's a cerebrovascular hemorrhage. What is the most susceptible area for bleeding in this lesion?

- A) Basal ganglia and internal capsule
- **B)** Midbrain
- **C)** Frontal lobe
- **D)** Occipital lobe

#### Q4: Regarding subacute changes of GCI, which of the following is not present in histopathological slide examination:

- **A)** Neutrophils infiltration
- **B)** Reactive Gliosis
- **C)** Red neurons
- D) Necrosis

### Q5: Charcot-Bouchard Aneurysms are associated with:

- A) Chronic hypertension
- B) Slit hemorrhage
- C) Vasculitis.
- D) Lacunar Infarcts

#### Q6: Which of the following triggers a Subarachnoid Hemorrhage with the highest clinical significance:

- A) Hematologic disturbance
- **B**) Tumors
- C) Hypertension
- **D)** Rupture of a saccular aneurysm

#### Q7: An autopsy was applied on a body suffering of malignant hypertension what do you expect to see as a microscopic findings:

- A) Hyaline arteriolar sclerosis in arterioles
- B) Liquefactive necrosis
- **C)** Gliosis
- D) New vascularization

#### Q8: An inflammatory disorder that involves multiple small to medium-sized parenchymal and subarachnoid vessels, is:

- A) Hypertension
- B) Secondary Angiitis
- C) Slit hemorrhage
- D) Primary Angiitis



Lama AlZamil & Khalid AlKhani

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