Manual of Neurosonology
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Contents

List of contributors vii
Foreword by David Russell ix

1 Ultrasound principles 1
László Oláh

2 Cervical arterial insonation 2A: Carotid protocol 15
José-Manuel Moltó Jordà
2B: Vertebal protocol 23
Galina Baltgaile

3 Carotid wall imaging 34
José Gutierrez and Tatjana Rundek

4 Endothelial function testing 48
László Csiba

5 Atherosclerotic carotid disease 5A: Carotid ultrasound imaging 57
Massimo Del Sette and Valentina Saia
5B: Contrast-enhanced carotid ultrasound and the unstable plaque 64
Edoardo Vicenzini
5C: Grading carotid stenosis 79
G.-Michael von Reutern

6 Atherosclerotic vertebral artery disease 87
Ralf Dittrich and E. Bernd Ringelstein

7 Cervical artery dissection 99
Claudio Baracchini

8 Cervical artery vasculitides 111
Mathias H. Sturzenegger

9 Transcranial insonation 9A: TCCS protocol 118
Eva Bartels
9B: TCCS advanced arterial protocol 130
José M. Valdueza
9C: TCD protocol 140
Ekaterina Titianova and Ildikó Vastagh

10 Intracranial stenosis/occlusion 154
Claudio Baracchini and Kurt Niederkorn

11 Extracranial and intracranial collateral pathways 165
Manfred Kaps

12 Acute ischemic stroke 169
Georgios Tsigouulis, Aristeidis H. Katsanos and Christos Krogias

13 Intracranial perfusion imaging 180
Stephen Meairs

14 Sonothrombolysis 190
José C. Navarro, Kristian Barlinn, Georgios Tsigouulis and Andrei V. Alexandrov

15 Microembolic signal detection 195
László Németh, Vendel Kemény and László Csiba

16 Right-to-left shunt detection 206
Susanna Horner

17 Cerebral autoregulation 215
Elsa Azevedo and Pedro Castro

18 Vasomotor reactivity 228
Alexander Gur, Attila Csányi and Natan M. Bornstein

19 Functional transcranial ultrasound 239
Jürgen Klingelhöfer

20 Neuromonitoring using transcranial Doppler under critical care conditions 258
Béla Fülesdi, Péter Siró and Csilla Molnár

21 Cerebral circulatory arrest 262
Stephan J. Schreiber

22 Intracranial venous ultrasound 269
Erwin Stolz
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Cervical venous ultrasound</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florian Doepp (Connolly) and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>José M. Valdueza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Brain parenchyma imaging</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uwe Walter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Neuro-orbital ultrasound</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mario Siebler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ultrasound of the nerves</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henrich Kele</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index 313
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Ultrasound is a reliable, safe and relatively inexpensive imaging technique which plays an indispensable and integral role in the evaluation of patients with cerebrovascular disease. It provides a unique diagnostic perspective in cerebrovascular disorders, with extremely high temporal resolution and excellent spatial display of extracranial arteries, brain structures and cerebral vessels. Ultrasound therefore provides a unique diagnostic perspective and has several important advantages compared with traditional computed tomography, magnetic resonance and invasive angiographic approaches.

Carotid ultrasound is capable of monitoring the development of atherosclerosis from early asymptomatic changes to the morphological changes associated with the unstable carotid artery plaque. It is possible using ultrasound to visualize arterial and venous blood flow characteristics, brain perfusion and vessel wall anatomy and thrombus formation. It can also detect and monitor emboli with their origin from unstable atherosclerotic plaques or emboli which arise during invasive cardiovascular examinations and surgery.

Cerebrovascular ultrasound studies also have an important role during patient follow-up. It has played an integral part in prospective randomized clinical trials, both in epidemiological and in interventional studies. Technological developments and the standardization of examination procedures have made important contributions regarding patient care including stroke prevention, acute stroke treatment, including sonothrombolysis, and interventional and surgical management.

The Manual of Neurosonology was initiated by the European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics (ESNCH) and includes contributions from experienced ESNCH members who are all international experts. It is mainly intended for clinicians who use cerebrovascular ultrasound in the assessment and treatment of cerebrovascular disease. However, it also includes other important neurosonological applications such as orbital ultrasound, brain parenchyma imaging and ultrasonography of the peripheral nerves which are gaining increasingly important roles in patient management.

The Manual of Neurosonology provides a comprehensive and authoritative work on the principles, practice and future developments of neurosonology which will provide an excellent reference in neurosonology for clinicians and clinical neuroscientists.

David Russell, MD
Founding President of the ESNCH