

Treatment-Related Stroke

Including Iatrogenic and In-hospital Strokes

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CAMBRIDGE
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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03743-4 — Treatment-Related Stroke
Edited by Alexander Tsiskaridze , Arne Lindgren , Adnan Qureshi
Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107037434

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First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd., Padstow, Cornwall

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data
Tsiskaridze, Alexander, editor. | Lindgren, Arne (Neurologist),
editor. | Qureshi, Adnan I., editor.
Treatment-related stroke : including iatrogenic and in-hospital
strokes / edited by Alexander Tsiskaridze, Arne Lindgren,
Adnan Qureshi.
Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. |
Includes bibliographical references and index.
LCCN 2016002558 | ISBN 9781107037434 (hardback)
| MESH: Stroke | Perioperative Period – adverse effects | Iatrogenic
Disease | Intraoperative Complications
LCC RC388.5 | NLM WL 356 | DDC 616.8/1–dc23
LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2016002558>

ISBN 978-1-107-03743-4 Hardback

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[More Information](#)

To our families and mentors.

Contents

List of contributors ix
Preface xi

Section I—iatrogenic ischemic strokes: peri- and postoperative strokes

1 **Stroke after general surgery** 1
Magdy Selim and Arne Lindgren

2 **Stroke after open arterial surgery** 12
David Bergqvist and Björn Kragsterman

3 **Postoperative stroke in neurosurgery** 23
Federico Landriel, Pablo Ajler and Claudio Yampolsky

4 **Vasospasm and delayed cerebral ischemia in aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage** 33
Fernando D. Goldenberg, Mario D. Terán and Federico Landriel

5 **Stroke occurring on medical wards** 47
David J. Blacker

6 **Stroke in trauma patients** 58
David J. Blacker

Section II—iatrogenic ischemic strokes: stroke after endovascular procedures

7 **Stroke associated with endovascular procedures** 63
Nabeel A. Herial, Mushtaq H. Qureshi and Adnan I. Qureshi

8 **Stroke after diagnostic endovascular procedures** 89
Anastasios Mpotsaris and Tommy Andersson

9 **Stroke after endovascular cardiac procedures and cardiothoracic surgery** 97
Christian Weimar and Stephan C. Knipp

10 **Stroke after carotid revascularization procedure** 106
Andrei V. Alexandrov, Kristian Barlinn and Robert Mikulik

Section III—iatrogenic ischemic strokes: other causes

11 **Radiation therapy and stroke** 113
Jelle Demeestere and Vincent Thijs

12 **Stroke after chiropractic manipulations** 123
Lars Neeb and Uwe Reuter

13 **Stroke due to air and fat embolism** 130
Fernando de M. Cardoso and Gabriel R. de Freitas

14 **Stroke after discontinuation of preventive medications** 144
Jelle Demeestere and Vincent Thijs

Section IV—iatrogenic hemorrhagic strokes: thrombolysis-related hemorrhagic strokes

15 **Intracranial hemorrhage: complication of endovascular therapy for acute stroke** 155
Muhib Alam Khan and Rushna Ali

16 **Intracranial hemorrhage: complication of intravenous thrombolysis** 162
Norbert Nighoghossian

Contents

Section V—Iatrogenic hemorrhagic strokes: intracranial bleeding

- 17 Intracranial hemorrhages secondary to antiplatelet treatment 169
Shraddha Mainali

Section VI—Iatrogenic hemorrhagic strokes: anticoagulation-related intracranial hemorrhage

- 18 Intracranial–extracerebral hemorrhage: complication of anticoagulation 185
Muhib Alam Khan
- 19 Iatrogenic intracerebral hemorrhage due to oral anticoagulation therapy: risk factors and diagnosis 189
Alexander Tsiskaridze

Section VII—Other uncommon causes of iatrogenic stroke

- 20 Stroke during pregnancy and the puerperium 203
Elisabetta Del Zotto and Alessandro Pezzini

- 21 Cardioversion-related stroke 222
Morten L. Hansen and Steen Husted
- 22 Medication-induced stroke 227
Fazeel M. Siddiqui and Adnan I. Qureshi

Section VIII—Cerebral venous thrombosis

- 23 Cerebral venous thrombosis 241
José M. Ferro and Patrícia Canhão

Section IX—Medication reversal and restarting in patients with iatrogenic strokes

- 24 Treatment of oral anticoagulant related intracranial hemorrhages 255
Mushtaq H. Qureshi, J. Alfredo Caceres and Adnan I. Qureshi

Index 265

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Preface

Iatrogenic stroke is considered to be uncommon but can occur in many different settings and may have unexpected and disastrous consequences. However, until now there has been no major comprehensive book dedicated to this topic. We are therefore very grateful for the opportunity to for the first time be able to present a book with special focus on iatrogenic stroke.

Iatrogenic derives from the ancient Greek word *iatros* (physician). It means an effect induced inadvertently by a physician or surgeon or by medical treatment or diagnostic procedures in a patient.

During the last decades, there have been impressive advances in medicine, leading to better outcomes for patients afflicted with what were earlier perceived as incurable diseases. Many new drugs, surgical techniques, and medical devices have been introduced in the diagnostic and therapeutic armamentarium. Also, diagnosis and treatment are now accessible to a much larger proportion of patients worldwide. Challenging and complex interventions are increasingly performed in elderly patients and in subjects with multiple comorbidities. This is particularly true in the fields of acute stroke care, secondary stroke prevention, surgery, intensive care, and oncology.

As all medical interventions have an inherent risk, and also known as well as sometimes unexpected adverse effects, the risk of iatrogenic stroke has increased in parallel with the availability of advanced treatments and general improvement in medical care. Iatrogenesis can be reduced by improving patients' safety and by risk reduction programs, but there is sometimes an inevitable pay-off of the diagnostic and therapeutic escalade in complex and critical patients.

Many very experienced and well known authors have contributed to the different chapters of this book. Without their help and the support from Cambridge University Press this project would not have been possible to accomplish. We hope that this book will provide a comprehensive overview of the topic and be of use for many stroke neurologists and other physicians working with stroke patients and patients with risk of stroke and thereby help reduce the risk of iatrogenic stroke.

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