

Rare Causes of Stroke

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Edited by Derya Uluduz , Anita Arsovska
Frontmatter
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Rare Causes of Stroke

A Handbook

Edited by

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Preface

Stroke is the second leading cause of death and the major cause of long-term disability, directly impacting the quality of life, worldwide. Owing to the aging population, there has been a recent spike in the number of strokes, in both developed and developing countries. Unfortunately, strokes with rarer and unknown causes receive little or no attention due to the heterogeneity of disorders and a poor understanding of the clinical features. There are considerable variations in the etiology of this rare subcategory of stroke, requiring heightened clinical awareness for recognition, evaluation and treatment.

Many rare causes of stroke, such as infections and hypercoagulability, need specific treatments rather than standard therapies to prevent recurrences in patients. Early diagnosis is vital to understand the etiology of an acute cerebrovascular event, which could constitute the first manifestation of a systemic disease requiring different treatment.

Even though some rare causes are difficult to treat, a detailed evaluation and accurate diagnosis will allow better risk assessment and family counseling, for the future generations of doctors and patients, respectively.

We were motivated to create this book because we realized that there are limited recourses and a lack of available literature on rare causes of stroke. The majority of available books address the theoretical information behind stroke, rather than a more practical clinical approach.

We would like to emphasize the need for higher suspicion for a detailed etiological diagnosis of rare causes, to increase awareness and to provide practical clues with case presentations to improve knowledge and patient outcomes.

We have also realized the importance of early recognition and diagnosis of rare causes of stroke, and we wished to provide a serviceable guide for colleagues that would help them to recognize and treat stroke due to rare causes. This book looks at the topic in a new and pragmatic way, provides a workable model for management of strokes due to rare causes and covers all important aspects of rare causes of stroke. Also, it will allow readers to understand the subject in a new light; the information is topical, engaging and relevant for today's readers; and it is a useful tool for the diagnosis and treatment of rare causes of stroke.

This book provides a detailed practical, clinical and contemporary overview of rare causes of stroke. Through case reports, renowned authors describe concise and comprehensive approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of rare causes of stroke, from isolated vasculitis of the central nervous system, primary systemic vasculitis, vasculitis secondary to systemic disease, infectious and postinfectious vasculitis, hypercoagulable states, hereditary and genetic factors, rare causes of cardioembolism, vasospastic conditions and other vasculopathies, other non-inflammatory vasculopathies and venous occlusive conditions to bone disorders and Eagle's syndrome. This book is a user-friendly, useful and concise guide that will help the clinician to establish an accurate diagnosis through detailed evaluation of such patients. It represents a comprehensive and up-to-date clinical approach for the diagnosis and treatment of rare causes of stroke that will lead to increased awareness of this subject.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude to our families for their love and unwavering support that has helped us in finalizing this book.

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