

## New surgery for Arach?

Posted by kev - 30 Nov 2006 13:04

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Hi DocSarah, i wondered if you knew any details about this report i read regarding Portugese surgeons operating on Arachnoiditis patients with good results. I read of it on COFWA but i have copied a brief summary below.

*Technical advance*

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*New surgical approach for late complications from spinal cord injury*

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### *Abstract*

*Background: The most frequent late complications in spinal cord injury result from arachnoiditis and consequent alterations in dynamics of cerebrospinal fluid flow. A surgical procedure carried out on patients with these alterations, resolved the various pathologies more efficiently in all cases.*

*Methods: From October 2000 to March 2006, 23 patients were selected for surgery: three showed signs of syringomyelia, three presented with microcystic lesions, three presented with arachnoid cysts in different locations but always confluent to the scar*

*area, and 14 showed evidence of tethered cords. The surgery consisted of laminectomy at four levels, followed by dural opening in order to remove all the arachnoiditis at the level of the scar and to remove the altered arachnoid and its cysts, at least at two levels above and below the lesion. The dentate ligaments were cut at all exposed levels.*

*Results: The patients had no postoperative problems and not only retained all neurological functions but also showed neurological recovery. According to the motor and sensory scale of the American Spinal Injury Association, the recoveries were motor 20.6% ( $P < 0.001$ ), touch 15.6% ( $P < 0.001$ ) and pinprick 14.4% ( $P < 0.001$ ). These patients showed no signs of relapse at 4-66 month follow-up.*

*Conclusions: This alternative surgery resolved the pathologies provoking neurological deterioration by releasing the complete spinal cord at the level of the scar and the levels above and below it. It thus avoids myelotomies and the use of shunts and stents, which have a high long-term failure rate and consequent relapses. Nevertheless, this surgical procedure allows patients the chance to opt for any further treatment that may evolve in the future.*

Am i getting excited over nothing here doc or is this really the first sign of hope for people like us?

Post edited by: kev, at: 2006/11/30 15:31

Post edited by: kev, at: 2006/12/02 01:06

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## Re:New surgery for Arach?

Posted by Kim - 11 Jan 2007 19:18

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Hi Becky

Actually Ann got the link off the COFWA site for me if I am not mistaken. I don't surf the boards as I am usually in bed when all that goes on.

I thought it important enough for the Doc to reply herself as I did not want peoples hopes raised.

I am not medically qualified so anything I say is only from a personal point of view, which is no doctor is going to get within a mile of my spine or central nervous system again, what ever they claim.

Sorry to be so negative

Bye for now

Kim

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