Peering Into Mental Illness

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The RSNA promotes excellence in patient care and healthcare delivery through education, research and technologic innovation.

Up Front
1 First Impression
4 My Turn

Features
5 Seeking MR Imaging Biomarkers for Mental Illness
7 RSNA Launches Image-rich Redesign of Radiology, RadioGraphics Websites
9 Russian Radiologists Make the Most of Limited Medical Resources
13 Radiology Studies Shed New Light on CT Contrast Risks

Radiology’s Future
11 Cosmetic Interventional Radiology: Another New Face of the Specialty?
15 R&E Foundation Donors

News You Can Use
17 Radiology in Public Focus
18 Education and Funding Opportunities
19 Journal Highlights
20 Residents & Fellows Corner
21 Annual Meeting Watch
23 The Value of Membership
24 RSNA.org
ACR Bestows Honors

Richard T. Hope, M.D., Lawrence R. Muroff, M.D., and Harvey L. Neiman, M.D., were awarded gold medals at the American College of Radiology's (ACR) recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Muroff, Graft and Joshi were named honorary fellows.

A professor of radiation oncology at Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Hope is an active member of the ACR. He is also a member of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO). He has served on several ACR committees over the years. Dr. Neiman secured his current position as ACR's CEO following terms as chief of the ACR's Board of Chancellors and ACR commissions on economics, education and ultrasound. Dr. Neiman recently announced plans to transition into retirement before stepping down as CEO in spring 2014.

Dr. Graft is chair of the Department of Medical Imaging at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center and professor of medical imaging at Tel Aviv University, both in Israel. Dr. Joshi is a consultant radiologist in the Department of Radiology at Jadavpur University and Research Centre and medical advisor in radiology at Kohinoor Hospital, both in Mumbai, India. He was named an ACR Honorary Member in 2012 and is currently a member of ACR's National Advisory Committee.

RSNA News

Successor Sought

American Board of Radiology (ABR) Executive Director Gary J. Becker, M.D., has announced he will retire from the position on June 30, 2014. ABR is accepting applications for his successor.

Dr. Becker, who served as ABR president in 2009, became ABR executive director in January 2008. The executive director supports the ABR Board of Trustees and oversees the operation of the ABR office and its staff of approximately 70 employees. The position reports to the president of the ABR, who also serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The executive director represents the ABR to the public and medical community at large at the discretion of the president and the trustees.

CIBR Shows Washington the Importance of Imaging

This year’s Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research (CIBR) Medical Technology Showcase drew policymakers and staff from 33 states. The annual Capitol Hill event highlights how imaging research is improving patient care and funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is critical for future imaging innovations.

Christopher Austin, M.D., director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the NIH, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Austin described how imaging will help move forward the agenda at NCATS through its potential to greatly shorten Therapeutics clinical trials while possibly adding quantity to efficacy testing. Research program personnel from the NIH, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense also attended along with representatives of numerous radiology societies and academic radiology departments.

The showcase capped a day of meetings on Capitol Hill during which patients, academia and industry representatives met with more than 40 offices in support of NIHBI. To learn more about CIBR go to www.imagingcoalition.org.
My Turn

A New Look for RSNA’s Journals

Over the past several decades, all of us have had our lives reshaped by a burgeoning array of online communications tools. We now receive information through a variety of media and communicate with one another in myriad web-assisted, video and asynchronous ways. We also have ready access to vast information stores, even on our hand-held devices.

Online communication tools have also shaped scholarly publications, including the RSNA’s online journals, Radiology Online and Radiographics Online, since their inception in 1998. At the time, advances in search functions, email alerts, and availability of supplemental material were considered revolutionary. As the Web has evolved, so have the features of our journals to keep pace with the needs of RSNA’s readers.

In 2009-2010, our online journals were redesigned to take advantage of newly developed Web 2.0 capabilities that improved reader interactivity and facilitated more customized content navigation. These enhancements were well received and the usage of the online journals has grown dramatically.

For instance, in 2012, 66 percent of Radiology subscribers and 61 percent of Radiographics subscribers received the journals online only. There was an astonishing total of 1,340,500 visits to the RSNA online journals’ homepages and 175,000 views of their abstracts. Moreover, many readers also took advantage of the RSNA mobile journal apps, with over 39,000 installations by the end of 2012. As we visit medical centers around the country for the RSNA’s Visiting Editors Programs, we consistently hear that most readers have come to rely on being able to access journal content online. As a result, incorporating advances in online publication is a high priority for the RSNA.

This year, the online journals are poised to enter another new phase, as we shift production from Highwire Press to Atypon, a leading provider of specialty software to deliver online content. The enhanced semantic, bibliometric and social networking capabilities offered by Atypon should further enhance readers’ experience. Readers will have increased capabilities to customize content by needs and interests. In time, they will be able to peruse only the content they want to see, where they want to see it, and in the way they want it presented.

The enhanced journal homepages will also offer simpler navigation. Social networking tools will improve interactive communications about journal content among individuals, groups, and online forums. The new semantic features will further improve search capabilities, facilitate the assignment of expert reviewers to newly submitted articles under review, and provide a better format for creating and analyzing metadata. We also envision providing online tools to help readers more easily wade through the confusing array of abbreviations and acronyms that populate our journals.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the redesigned online journals and how the new features impact your experience.
Despite significant advancements in diagnosing and treating psychiatric disorders in recent years, biological tests are still not part of the process. However, researchers using functional MR imaging (fMRI) to examine brain activity are investigating potential biologic markers for diagnosis and treatment of these complex illnesses.

Currently, diagnosing a psychiatric disorder involves several steps, including an evaluation by a physician if symptoms are present. The patient is then referred to a psychiatrist, who—depending on the symptoms and the patient’s behavior—makes a diagnosis based on Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM).

“It’s a book of descriptive diagnoses—there’s nothing biological about it,” said Emily Stern, M.D., director of functional and molecular neuroimaging in the Department of Radiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) in Boston. “It’s remarkable that in the 21st Century someone can walk into a doctor’s office and get diagnosed for a psychiatric disorder without one biological test.”

So Dr. Stern, co-director of the Functional Neuroimaging Laboratory at BWH (along with David Silbersweig, M.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry at BWH), has spent much of her career utilizing functional imaging—particularly fMRI—to examine the brain activity of patients with psychiatric disorders. “The goal is to look at the neurocircuity that underlies symptom formation across a number of disorders,” she said. “We then try to understand some of the similarities and differences among and between disorders so that we can get a better idea of the biology that causes symptom formation.”

Dr. Stern and colleagues use fMRI to examine a variety of psychiatric illnesses including schizophrenia, affective disorders such as depression and bipolar disease, anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Examining multiple disorders makes sense because many of the symptoms overlap, she said. For example, patients with schizophrenia may become anxious and anxious patients often become depressed, while those with depression may become anxious because many of the symptoms overlap, she said.

The descriptive categories in the DSM aren’t really hard and fast,” Dr. Stern said. “Looking at the biological underpinnings of particular symptoms can help us to elucidate a biological framework for understanding all of these disorders.”

In addition to using imaging tools as biomarkers to provide a foundation for possible future diagnosis of psychiatric disorders, one of Dr. Stern’s major goals is to use imaging to guide treatment. For example, it would be extremely helpful to psychiatrists if scanning could help predict treatment response, and there is already some work in the field on this, she said.

“This is so important because some of the very standard forms of pharmacotherapy, such as serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SRIs) can take six to eight weeks to kick in and we wouldn’t know until that point whether the treatment will be efficacious or not,” she said. “That’s a long time to wait for someone who potentially suicidal. There is a great need to come up with an effective biological predictor of treatment response.”

She points out that there are already examples of how such work can impact treatment. “One of the first studies we did was to identify certain areas of the brain that underlie hallucination formation in schizophrenia. Investigators at Yale then took this information and used transcranial magnetic stimulation in those regions to reduce hallucinations in schizophrenic patients,” Dr. Stern said. “We’re getting there in very small steps, but we haven’t arrived at the point where we reliably have a biomarker that we know will work in individual patients. That’s our goal.”

Brain Imaging Algorithm Could Aid Diagnosis, Treatment

Other researchers are using anatomical MR imaging to investigate patterns that emerge from the voxels that represent 3D images—a potential breakthrough for diagnosing and treating mental illness. At Columbia University, Bradley Peterson, M.D., director of the Center for Developmental Neuropsychiatry, New York, and Ravi Bansal, Ph.D., of the Brain Imaging Laboratory, New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, have developed an automated method of diagnosing neuropsychiatric illnesses using anatomical MR imaging of the brain.

The spatial variation across voxels and brain subregions, rather than analyzing the data point by point, produces a pattern that is analogous to the dermatomal ridges on a fingertip—a fingerprint. These patterns across the brain, said Dr. Peterson, are analogous to the dermatomal ridges on a fingertip— a fingerprint. “You don’t identify a person by looking at one fingerprint, you take it at a single point on that person’s fingerprint,” he said. “Instead you look at the overall pattern of those ridges. Rather than analyze the data point by point at every millimeter of the brain, we wanted to capture spatial variations or the spatial pattern of abnormalities, compared with healthy controls or people with other disorders.”

Dr. Peterson and Bansal developed a new algorithm that can diagnose these illnesses based on those spatial variations or patterns. This approach, and the idea that imaging can be used in the diagnosis of psychiatric disorders, has profound implications for patients and their doctors.

Mental health professionals are very good diagnosticians, said Dr. Peterson, and they are usually able to narrow down the possibilities very quickly at the time of initial presentation. But, “only time will most likely tell you what the exact diagnosis turns out to be,” he added.

Just as an internist can order a test to determine blood glucose levels to diagnose Type 2 diabetes, psychiatrists would like to have that same kind of diagnostic certainty to prescribe the best treatment as quickly as possible. Both doctors believe their algorithm can be the lab test that can aid in diagnosis, help treatment planning, put people on the right medications, and give them a more accurate prognosis.

Dr. Peterson also believes the algorithm offers a way of identifying subgroups within disorders, explaining that each should have a different response to specific treatments and different genetic and environmental causes. “We’d like to know what those causes and specifically tailored treatments are. And so the prospects of identifying biological subtypes for both research and clinical use is incredibly compelling and exciting, and in my opinion, that’s the greatest potential value of this kind of clinical aid.”

Researchers are using anatomical MR imaging to diagnose conditions in brains based on patterns that emerge in the voxels that represent 3D images—a potential breakthrough for diagnosing and treating mental illness. Above: Classifying an adult as healthy or with a disorder, or between two neuropsychiatric illnesses. Banal R, Stolar L.H., Lurion AP, Hao X, et al. (2012) “Anatomical Brain Imaging Alone Can Accurately Diagnose Chronic Neuropsychiatric Illnesses.” PloS ONE 7(12): e50598. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0050598

WEB EXTRAS

To access the study, “Anatomical Brain Imaging Alone Can Accurately Diagnose Chronic Neuropsychiatric Illnesses,” by Ravi Bansal, Ph.D., and colleagues in the December 2012 issue of PLOS ONE, go to www.plosonline.org/article/ forml.1/id/full/10.7717/pone.0050598

For more information on the Functional Neuroimaging Laboratory at Brigham and Women’s, go to www.functionalneuroimaging.org.

For more information on the Functional Neuroimaging Laboratory at Brigham and Women’s, go to www.functionalneuroimaging.org.
RSNA Launches Image-rich Redesign of Radiology, RadioGraphics Websites

Colorful, prominently placed images that offer maximum functionality are among the eye-catching highlights of the redesigned Radiology and RadioGraphics websites set to debut in early September.

While continuing to offer the same high-quality, educational content users have come to rely upon, the websites will feature in-depth search options, more interactive content, access to mobile CME and improved functionality, navigation and usability—all in an aesthetically engaging new package. An image from each of RSNA’s two peer-reviewed scientific journals will anchor each site along with smaller images from that research. Making full use of the images so critical to the journals, both sites will offer a new function allowing users to compare images from within a journal article—a feature unique to RSNA journals.

A new single sign-on process will allow users to move seamlessly between journal websites, RSNA.org and RSNA’s New Learning Management System once they have logged onto any of those sites. RSNA user feedback about most desired functions and features was the basis for the redesign that coincides with a transition to the online platform Atypon, a leading provider of content delivery solutions for some of the largest names in publishing, such as the New England Journal of Medicine. The changes will allow RSNA to deliver more relevant, targeted content efficiently and accurately, according to journal editors who are excited about the upcoming launch.

“The new site should be very user friendly and allow a more customized reader experience,” said Radiology Editor Herbert Y. Kressel, M.D. “Also, the enhanced semantic capabilities should be helpful in searching content and gathering metadata.”

The new site will offer an abundance of educational improvements, according to RadioGraphics Editor Jeffrey S. Klein, M.D. “The new RadioGraphics website will allow our readers to more readily access current and past educational content, and in particular will provide novel tools that allow customized delivery and archiving of material pertinent to each radiologist’s practice and MOC efforts,” Dr. Klein said.

“The new site should be very user friendly and allow a more customized reader experience.”

Herbert Y. Kressel, M.D.
Russian Radiologists Make the Most of Limited Medical Resources

Three U.S. radiologists who recently visited St. Petersburg, Russia, to assist with radiologic education came away with valuable lessons from Russian physicians adept at reaping the maximum benefits from an often limited pool of resources.

The largest city in Russia, St. Petersburg is rich in art and culture, but often wanting for the funding, education and technology necessary to support its healthcare system. Nevertheless, radiologists who visited the city through RSNA’s International Visiting Professor (IVP) Program left with a true appreciation for the high-quality work Russian physicians are performing despite the lack of resources and other challenges.

“I was impressed by how little physicians are compensated and the dearth of resources they have to do their jobs,” said Curtis E. Green, M.D., a professor of radiology and cardiology at the University of Rochester, N.Y.

Medical Equipment in Short Supply

In terms of technology, the professors describe the radiology equipment as advanced but in relatively short supply. “The quality of equipment was good, but there were far fewer machines than we have here,” Dr. Green said. “For example, the thoracic hospital I visited—with more than 600 beds—had only two CT scanners. I think that much less use is made of each scanner and they seem to rely more on clinical evaluation rather than technology. This is not necessarily a bad thing, however.”

“For example, one of the hospitals made extensive use of nuclear medicine perfusion scans of the chest to guide surgical resection of TB lung. Dr. Green said. “I have not encountered that here in the U.S., as surgery is rarely necessary due to our different patient population,” he said.

In fact, nuclear medicine is an area where Russia is excelling, according to the professors. Dr. Aygün said nuclear medicine techniques in neuroradiology are more sophisticated in Russia than in the U.S. “We saw very interesting applications of C11-Methionin-PET in central nervous system tumors as well as cryosalvation of brain tumors,” Dr. Aygün said.

Education, Salaries Often Lacking

Salaries and educational opportunities for Russian radiologists vary dramatically from what U.S. radiologists experience, the professors said.

Residency training is just two years and the country doesn’t offer a formal fellowship program. Because education is sorely needed in all areas of radiology, specialty training could benefit greatly from exchanges with U.S. institutions, they concurred.

“Two young fellows wanted to know how to continue their residency,” Dr. Monu said. “Two young fellows wanted to know how to continue their residencies in the U.S.”

Those who do earn medical degrees often find the salaries for available positions lacking. Although most doctors are employed at government institutions, many also work at private practices or in other professions. Dr. Monu said “Many medical doctors appear disenchantment with the system and some claim they may make a better living at other professions than being a doctor,” Dr. Monu said.

“I was impressed by how little physicians are compensated and the dearth of resources they have to do their jobs,” Curtis E. Green, M.D.

Curtis E. Green, M.D.

For more information about “Navigating RSNA 2013” and the Global Connection Booth, visit Rsna.org/Global_Connection.
Cosmetic Interventional Radiology: Another New Face of the Specialty?

Several years ago, interventional radiologist Ziv Haskal, M.D., observed that cosmetic procedures such as injections of botulinum toxin (Botox), dermal fillers and treatment for hyperhidrosis (excess sweating) were being performed “by every specialty of medicine on the planet.”

Along with obstetricians, ophthalmologists, vascular surgeons and internists who offered such treatments, “there was a diagnostic radiologist who had a longstanding cosmetic clinic in midtown Manhattan,” said Dr. Haskal, a professor of radiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Interventional Radiology.

Given that such cosmetic procedures involve many of the tools and procedures interventional radiologists already know well, Dr. Haskal began looking for a way to spark further interest in cosmetic procedures within the interventional radiology (IR) specialty.

“We were already doing procedures such as injecting medications, treatments for pain and nerve blocks,” Dr. Haskal said. “These skills make us as capable—if not more capable—than other specialties in treating seemingly wieldy needles as part of their daily practice.”

In 2007, Dr. Haskal, the meeting chair of the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), organized an all-day symposium to explore what he coined “Cosmetic IR.” He was stunned when more than 25 different liposuction cases in five different areas of the body under the guidance of physicians who regularly performed the procedure. “I learned the basic techniques of liposuction and purchased my first generation laser.”

Once he decided to pursue laser liposuction, he went through a training period that involved performing 25 different liposuction cases in five different areas of the body, he said. “I was sitting down and reading studies,” Dr. Haskal said. “The fact that many interventional radiologists like Dr. Chamsuddin have offered vein interventions as part of their practice, Dr. Haskal said. “They have very step to move into these cosmetic interventions for many of the patients you’ve already seen for varicose vein interventions.”

That’s exactly how Dr. Chamsuddin’s practice evolved. Many of his patients were originally treated for conditions like varicose veins or fibroids and began asking him about cosmetic procedures. He estimates that about 50 percent of his practice now involves cosmetic IR. Nevertheless, “I still have my workarounds so that every morning at 7 a.m. I’m sitting down and reading studies,” Dr. Chamsuddin said.

Cosmetic Radiology a Burgeoning Trend

While there are relatively few interventional radiologists who have freestanding practices devoted solely to cosmetic IR, “it certainly plays an adjunct or additional role in many practices,” Dr. Haskal said.

The Russian IVP trip was hosted by the Nevsky Clinics, which Dr. Green describes as a “very interesting city with stunning architecture, museums, statues and churches. It is amazingly European in ambiance.”

“Internet is very available in Russia, so access to educational materials from the RSNA would be helpful,” Dr. Momu said.

To meet the needs of radiologists from around the world including a growing number of members from Russia, RSNA is expanding its educational resources to include over 600 online courses. For those unable to travel to RSNA 2013, the virtual meeting offers select sessions on-demand throughout the week of the meeting and the following week. “I would love to see the U.S. sponsor some radiology residents or young faculty to spend a few weeks here,” Dr. Green said.

“view this as a natural extension of an outpatient practice, particularly a vein practice,” Dr. Haskal said. “Cosmetic IR fits well into the broad and heterogeneous landscape of interventional radiology. That’s the beauty of interventional radiology: We can house patient care all the way from birth to an advanced age, and everything in between.”

Dr. Chamsuddin expects the trend towards cosmetic radiology to mushroom, particularly as radiologists continue to feel the reimbursement squeeze. Unlike many interventional procedures, Dr. Chamsuddin acknowledges that he expects to be reimbursed for laser liposuction since it’s not covered by insurance and the patient is responsible for payment.

“I know at the end of the procedure I’m going to have a satisfied patient and I know I’m going to be paid right away,” he said. “It provides satisfaction in two ways—my patients are happy and I’m able to support my staff and practice.”

Russian Radiologists Make the Most of Limited Medical Resources

Continued from Page 10

Better access to educational materials is critical, according to the professors who say Russian physicians could greatly benefit from RSNA courses available in the U.S. including those offered by RSNA. "Internet is very available in Russia, so access to learning materials from the RSNA would be helpful,” Dr. Momu said.

To meet the needs of radiologists from around the world including a growing number of members from Russia, RSNA is expanding its educational resources to include over 600 online courses. For those unable to travel to RSNA 2013, the virtual meeting offers select sessions on-demand throughout the week of the meeting and the following week. “I would love to see the U.S. sponsor some radiology residents or young faculty to spend a few weeks here,” Dr. Green said.

Rusians ‘Proud of Their Country’

When not touring medical facilities, the professors found time to explore the beauty of St. Petersburg, which Dr. Green describes as a “very interesting city with stunning architecture, museums, statues and churches. It is amazingly European in ambiance.”

In terms of the Russian citizens, the professors left with a very favorable impression. “All the people were warm and friendly and generally wanted to help,” Dr. Momu said. “My impression is that the average Russian is very proud of his or her country.”

The Russian IVP trip was hosted by the Nevsky Radiological Society and Philips Medical Systems. In 2014, IVP teams are scheduled to travel to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and Tunisia.
Demonstrating the complexity of the issue, however, a third study appearing in the same issue of Radiology showed that intravenous, low-osmolality iodinated contrast material is a nephrotoxic risk factor, but only in patients with preexisting renal insufficiency. The authors of the first two studies, Robert J. McDonald, M.D., Ph.D., and Jennifer S. McDonald, Ph.D., join the third author, Matthew S. Davenport, M.D., and other experts in a Radiology Podcast discussion of their research and contrast agents in general. (See sidebar).

For many years, the association between intravenous iodinated contrast media and kidney injury was so entrenched that the terms acute kidney injury (AKI) and contrast material-induced nephropathy (CIN), or an increase in serum creatinine (SCr) after a CT exam, were used interchangeably. “Medical dogma currently suggests that intravenous contrast is an extremely common cause of renal injury,” said Dr. Robert McDonald, a radiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Despite their ability to improve visualization of tissue, contrast agents are often withheld from CT exams due to this concern, and patients with compromised kidney function are frequently discouraged from using the practice that has come under the scrutiny of Dr. Robert McDonald, Dr. Davenport and colleagues who believe that improperly designed studies have led to an overstated risk of renal injury from intravenous iodinated contrast material. Clinical trials in which patients are randomly assigned to receive or not receive contrast could provide answers, but ethical dilemmas over such trials have forced clinicians to instead predominate on studies with no control groups.

“The past several decades, well over 1,000 studies have been published on contrast-induced nephropathy that did not include control groups of patients who did not receive contrast,” said Dr. Jennifer McDonald, an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology at the Mayo Clinic. “These uncontrolled studies cannot differentiate cases of true contrast-induced nephropathy from contrast-independent cases of renal injury and are thus of little value in the realm of evidence-based medicine.”

To that end, Dr. Robert McDonald and his Mayo Clinic colleagues recently conducted an extensive review of AKI in patients who underwent contrast-enhanced and unenhanced abdominal, pelvic and thoracic CT. In a study published in the April issue of Radiology, researchers applied analytical tools including propensity score adjustments to simulate a randomized controlled trial on retrospective data and a counterfactual analysis, an experiment designed to test causality.

The Mayo team studied AKI incidence in 53,439 patients who underwent CT scanning between 2001 and 2010. After analyzing 157,169 scans, researchers found no significant difference in AKI risk between patients who had received contrast and those who had not. Analysis of patients who received both an enhanced and unenhanced CT showed no significant difference in AKI incidence between the two scan types, suggesting a weak or absent causal association between contrast exposure and kidney injury.

Research Analyzes Controlled Studies on Contrast Media

Findings from the first study inspired Mayo researchers to identify and analyze all prior controlled studies of the nephrotoxic effects of IV contrast media. These separate efforts were also published in the April issue of Radiology. Researchers identified 15 nonrandomized studies comprising 25,950 patients. The risk of AKI, death and dialysis was similar between the group that received contrast medium and the control group that did not receive contrast medium. This pattern was observed regardless of IV contrast medium type, diagnostic criteria for AKI or whether patients had diabetes mellitus or renal insufficiency.

“The results of this meta-analysis mirror the findings from our own controlled study,” Dr. Jennifer McDonald said. “These studies comprehensively could not detect an increased incidence of AKI in those patients that received contrast media.”

The Mayo studies and other research suggest that other sources for kidney injury exist in this patient group. Dr. Robert McDonald pointed out that people undergoing CT with contrast are less healthy, on average, than people in the general population.

“There are dozens of other causes of kidney injury that lead to a rise in serum creatinine and, based upon our findings, these contrast-independent factors may be a more common cause between patients who were exposed to intravenous contrast and those who were not,” he said.

Numerous Factors Contribute to CIN

While the Radiology research led by Dr. Davenport determined that intravenously administered low-osmolality contrast material is an important independent risk factor for post-CT AKI in patients with preexisting renal insufficiency, researchers also determined that many factors other than contrast material can affect post-CT AKI rates. In their retrospective study, researchers performed CT exams over a 10-year period in 20,242 patients identified with sufficient SCr data. Half of the exams included intravenous contrast material and half did not.

Researchers performed a one-to-one propensity-matched cohort analysis with multivariate analysis of effects. Propensity matching was performed with respect to likelihood of patients receiving intravenous contrast material (36 tested covariates). The primary endpoint was post-CT AKI by using Acute Kidney Injury Network SCr criteria, the secondary endpoint was post-CT AKI by using traditional SCr criteria for contrast material–induced nephrotoxicity. Multivariate subgroup threshold analysis was performed and adjusted for assigned propensity scores.

Intravenous low-osmolality iodinated contrast material had a significant effect on the development of post-CT AKI for patients with pre-CT SCr levels of 1.6 mg/dL or greater, results showed. Patients with stable SCr less than 1.5 mg/dL were not at risk for developing CIN.

“Our data demonstrate that intravenously administered iodinated contrast is indeed nephrotoxic, although only in a small population of patients,” said Dr. Davenport, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. “Only patients with severe renal dysfunction appear to be at significant risk. Each of our studies has shown rather convincingly that the risk is much less common than previously believed.”

Although all three studies share common ground, there is one critical difference. Dr. Davenport said. “Our research shows that there is a risk to certain patients with severe renal impairment, while Dr. McDonald and colleagues were unable to find such a risk. Resolving this difference has profound clinical implications.”

Research Could Reverse Thinking on Contrast

The Mayo and Michigan findings and other research could help speed a change in thinking among physicians and expand access to potentially life-saving exams for patients.

Paradoxically, patients for whom contrast is withheld are often those who will benefit the most from a contrast-enhanced CT exam. “Without contrast, we are more limited in the information we can provide to the patient and the primary care provider which potentially life-saving exams for patients,” said Dr. Davenport.

“There are signs that the Mayo and Michigan studies and other research are helping physicians make more informed decisions, according to David F. Kallmes, M.D., a professor of radiology at the Mayo Clinic and a co-author of both studies who also participates in the Podcast discussion.

“The research has made a impact, and we’re already seeing liberalization in the use of contrast media,” he said.

“that could be the lasting impact of all three studies, according to another expert who co-authored an editorial on contrast media in the same Radiology issue and participates in the Podcast. “Wherever the real truth lies, these studies show it is far from what we’ve been thinking in the past. It might be an exacting decision and it is certainly a big deal when a critical organ is at risk. And the question of contrast being particularly dangerous,” said Jeffery H. Newhouse, M.D., of the Department of Radiology, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, N.Y. “It’s only a little dangerous for a small group of people.”
Your Donations in Action

A grant Jonathan R. Dillman, M.D., received from the RSNA Research & Education Foundation was the stepping stone to a recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant that will build on his RSNA project, “Comparative Effectiveness of MR Enterography, Enteric Ultrasound, and Ultrasonic Elastic Imaging in the Evaluation of Pediatric Small Bowel Crohn Disease.”

After receiving the 2011-2013 AGFA HealthCare/RSNA Research Scholar Grant, Dr. Dillman was awarded the University of Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICH/NIH K23 Mentored Career Development Grant). This two-year grant will provide 75 percent protected time for patient-oriented research and career development.

“My proposed research is an extension of my RSNA Research Scholar Grant project and will further investigate ultrasound elasticity imaging and contrast enhanced ultrasound as potential quantitative biomarkers evaluation of inflammation and fibrosis in Crohn’s disease animal model and humans,” Dr. Dillman said. “The career development plan will focus on acquiring an M.S. degree in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis through the University of Michigan School of Public Health.”

Dr. Dillman will work with a multidisciplinary research/mentoring team including Peter Higgins, M.D., Ph.D., M.S., assistant professor of internal medicine specializing in gastroenterology; Jonathan Rubin, M.D., Ph.D., director of ultrasound, and Ruth Carlos, M.D., M.S., assistant chair of clinical research and faculty affairs for the Department of Radiology, all at the University of Michigan.

“This is my first NIH grant; such an achievement would not have been possible without the protected research time provided by the Research Scholar Grant,” Dr. Dillman said. “In addition, the RSNA Advanced Course in Grant Writing was critical to the success of my K23 Application.”

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Abdominal Aortic Atherosclerosis at MR Imaging Is Associated with Cardiovascular Events: The Dallas Heart Study

MR imaging measures of aortic atherosclerosis are predictive of future adverse cardiovascular events, new research shows. In a study of 2,122 participants from the multiethnic, population-based Dallas Heart Study who underwent abdominal aortic MR imaging at 1.5 T, Christopher D. Maroules, M.D., of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, and colleagues measured aortic atherosclerosis by quantifying mean aortic wall thickness (MAWT) and aortic plaque burden. Participants were monitored for cardiovascular death, nonfatal cardiovascular events, and nonfatal extracranial vascular events over a mean period of 7.8 years. Increasing MAWT was positively associated with men (odds ratio, 3.66; P < .0001), current smoking (odds ratio, 2.53; P < .0001), and hypertension (odds ratio, 1.66; P < .0001). A total of 143 participants (6.7 percent) experienced a cardiovascular event. “MR imaging measures of aortic atherosclerosis are predictive of future adverse cardiovascular events,” according to researchers. “Both aortic plaque burden and mean aortic wall thickness are significant predictors of nonfatal, extracranial vascular events.”

White Matter Hyperintensities: Use of Aortic Arch Pulse Wave Velocity to Predict Volume Independent of Other Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Aortic arch pulse wave velocity (PWV) is an independent predictor of subsequent white matter hyperintensity (WMH) volume, with a greater standardized effect and level of significance than all other cardiovascular risk factors assessed except for age, new research shows. In a study of 1,270 participants in the multiethnic, population-based Dallas Heart Study, Kevin S. King, M.D., of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, and colleagues measured aortic arch PWV with phase-contrast MR imaging. Researchers estimated that a 1 percent increase in aortic arch PWV (in meters per second) is related to a 0.3 percent increase in subsequent WHM volume (in milliliters) when all other variables are constant. “An optimal predictive model, aortic arch PWV provides a distinct contribution to WMH burden along with systolic blood pressure, hypertension treatment, history of congestive heart failure, and age,” the researchers write.

Soccer Heading Is Associated with White Matter Microstructural and Cognitive Abnormalities

High frequency of soccer heading—in which players field the ball with their head—in otherwise healthy adult amateur players is associated with lower white matter fractional anisotropy and worse memory performance than in players who performed less heading, new research shows. Michael L. Lipton, M.D., Ph.D., of Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, N.Y., and colleagues conducted diffusion-tensor MR imaging on 37 amateur adult soccer players (median age 31 years); 29 were men. Participants played soccer for an average of 22 years and an average of 10 months during the past year. Cognitive function was measured using a battery of tests. Voxelwise linear regression (heading vs. fractional anisotropy [FA]) was applied to identify significant regional associations. Researchers tested FA at each location and cognition for a nonlinear relationship to heading by using an inverse logit model that incorporated demographic covariates and history of concussion. High frequency of soccer heading (885–1,800 headings per year) in otherwise healthy adult amateur players is associated with lower white matter fractional anisotropy (FA) (P = .00001) and worse memory performance (P = .00001) than in players who performed less heading. “Repetitive subconcussive head trauma in the setting of heading during soccer may be associated with white matter microstructural and neurocognitive changes similar to those seen in patients with traumatic brain injury,” the authors write.
Residents & Fellows Corner

Don’t Miss a Thing: Keep Your RSNA Profile Up-to-Date

Residents and fellows are encouraged to update their contact information with RSNA as they move to new positions. Log in at myRSNA.org and click Edit Profile to update your personal information. Having current street and personal e-mail addresses on file with RSNA means you won’t miss out on:

- Subscriptions to Radiology, RadioGraphics and RSNA News
- Special membership rates for members transitioning from residency or fellowship to practice
- E-mail news bulletins, including RSNA Insider and RSNA Weekly
- Annual meeting announcements

RSNA members transitioning to practice after residency or fellowship pay just $100 their first year and $200 their second year. Full dues are not required until the third year. If you have questions or wish to renew by phone, call 1-877-RSNA-MEM (776-2636) or 1-630-571-7873 (outside the U.S. or Canada).

Symptomatic White Matter Changes in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Resemble Pathologic Features of Early Alzheimer Dementia

Distribution of white matter abnormalities in patients with symptomatic mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) is strikingly similar to the distribution of pathologic abnormalities in patients with early Alzheimer dementia, new research shows.

In the study, Saeed Fakhran, M.D., of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and colleagues evaluated diffusion-tensor images from 46 consecutive patients with mild TBI obtained with conventional MR imaging. Fractional anisotropy (FA) maps were generated as a measure of white matter integrity. All patients underwent a neuropsychologic evaluation. Results showed a significant correlation between elevated total concussion symptom score and reduced FA in the gray matter–white matter junction (P < .05), most prominently in the auditory cortex (P < .05). FA values in the paralimbocampal gyr were significantly decreased in patients with sleep and wake disturbances relative to those in patients without sleep and wake disturbances (0.26 and 0.37 respectively, P < .05).

“Additional research in this area may help further elucidate a potential link between these seemingly disparate disease processes because the symptoms of mild TBI may not be from direct damage already done but rather from damage from a neurodegenerative cascade that may be prevented,” the authors write.

August Outreach Public Information Activities

In August, RSNA is distributing the “60-Second Checkup” radio segments to nearly 180 radio stations across the U.S. The segments focus on the use of MR imaging to show brain abnormalities in patients who suffer from migraines.
Enroll Now for Courses

Course enrollment for RSNA 2013 is underway. Online enrollment occurs instantly, while faxed or mailed registration forms are processed in the order they are received. The RSNA 2013 Advance Registration, Housing and Course Enrollment brochure is available at RSNA.org/register. Use this brochure to make the most of your RSNA 2013 experience. RSNA has organized the information in the course brochure to help you complete your enrollment in just a few steps. Find the courses you need, build your schedule and enroll quickly and easily online or via the print form. You must be registered for RSNA 2013 in order to enroll for courses.

Guarantee Your Seat!

Tickets are required for various meeting components, including refresher courses, multisession, informatics workshops and RSNA tours and events.

All ticketed courses must be confirmed prior to November 27 to guarantee a seat. RSNA ticketed courses fill up fast, so ensure you get the courses you need by enrolling at RSNA.org/register. There is no onsite course ticketing. Registrants without tickets will be allowed entrance into a course after all ticketed registrants have been seated.

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RSNA 2013 Registration

How to Register

There are four ways to register for RSNA 2013:

1. INTERNET (fastest way)
   Go to RSNA.org/register

2. FAX (24 hours)
   1-888-772-1888
   1-301-686-5124
   Faxback: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (CT)
   1-800-694-5124

3. TELEPHONE
   (8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CT)
   1-877-996-5876

4. MAIL
   (fastest way)
   RSNA News, P.O. Box 4088
   Chicago, IL 60604

Spouse/Family Member Badge

Full-conference professional registrants are entitled to one complimentary spouse/family member badge. Each additional badge is $50. This badge is intended for use by a spouse or family member (16 or over) accompanying a full-conference professional registrant to the meeting. It allows access to technical exhibit halls, Lakeside Learning Center and classrooms—space permitting—after all professional registrants have been seated. CME credit is not tracked or awarded. A co-worker or industry associate is not eligible for this badge and must register as a professional and pay the applicable registration fee.

RSNA Gears up for 2013 Technical Exhibition

The world’s largest exhibition of radiology-related products, the 2013 RSNA Technical Exhibition features nearly 700 exhibitors from across the globe showcasing products of all kinds in every specialty. Shop and compare the latest equipment, devices and software exhibited by leading manufacturers, suppliers, and developers of medical information and technology—all under one roof.

Highlights of the 2013 Technical Exhibit:

• Exhibitor Product Theater: Discover new products, services and software systems from exhibitors
• Vendor Workshops: Get hands-on tutorials of vendor software systems
• Publishers Row: Shop for educational publications covering all areas of medical imaging
• IHIE Image Sharing Demonstration: See how software systems can communicate seamlessly across locations

Access the full list of RSNA 2013 exhibitors and the Exhibitor Product Theater and Vendor Workshop schedules at RSNA.org/exhibits.

Virtual Meeting Now Extended an Extra Week

The RSNA 2013 Virtual Meeting allows users to experience the world’s premiere medical imaging event from anywhere in the world. Participants can tune in to live and on-demand sessions during RSNA 2013 and on-demand sessions through December 13. Participants can explore education exhibits and scientific posters, see demonstrations of new technology, submit diagnoses for Cases of the Day and earn CME for live activities.

RSNA has reduced the fee to $800 for RSNA members and $300 for non-members. RSNA members-in-training, medical student members and retired members can access the Virtual Meeting for free. For more information or to register for the Virtual Meeting, go to RSNA.org/virtual.

RSNA 2013 Important Dates

RSNA 2013 will be held from November 24 to 28 at McCormick Place Convention Center.

Register by October 25 to receive the discounted registration fee and full conference materials mailed to you in advance. Registrations received after October 25 will be processed at the increased fee and conference materials must be obtained at the McCormick Place Convention Center.

RSNA News

2013 Edition

August 2013

For more information about registering for RSNA 2013, visit RSNA.org/Attendee.aspx, e-mail reginfo@rsna.org, or call 1-800-381-6660 x7862.
RSNA/AAPM Physics Modules Redesigned for Mobile Age

Supporting the on-the-go lifestyle of the digital age, RSNA/AAPM Physics Modules have been redesigned for mobile tablet viewing, offering a fresh new look and feel designed to foster an exciting and dynamic learning experience.

All 45 RSNA/AAPM Physics modules have been redesigned and will include user-driven, module-specific interactive learning features for a richer user experience. Moving away from the traditional e-textbook format, each module will offer a more colorful, exciting interface, with modules color-coded by topic area. The new interface allows users to navigate to key module topic areas with a tap of the screen rather than navigating via a static course outline. Module post-tests are included with each module, providing users with instantaneous feedback on correct or incorrect answers. The mobile RSNA/AAPM Physics Modules will be available this fall. Contact physics@RSNA.org for more information.

RSNA’s Online Education is Going Mobile

Coming in fall 2013, RSNA is revolutionizing the way members can access the Society’s vast online library of CME courses. The new mobile format allows users to view RSNA’s online education content on-the-go. Each of the following CME offerings is being redesigned for mobile tablet viewing, offering a fresh new look and feel designed to foster an exciting and dynamic learning experience.

- RSNA’s educational content continues to meet the highest standards for our members.
- Mobile accessibility, a sleek new interface, interactive touch-screen learning and instantaneous user feedback.
- This is just one more example of how RSNA’s educational content continues to meet the highest standards for our members.

RSNA Staff Retirement

In spring 2013, RSNA said goodbye to an employee with nearly 30 years’ worth of service to the Society’s publications.

Carol Douglas, 28 years

From the moment she began her employment as a production assistant with RSNA in November 1984, Carol played a significant role in the evolution of Radiographics and Radiology. Carol took on increasing leadership responsibilities as the journals expanded to new media and much of the production work was shifted from vendors to an in-house staff at RSNA. Carol served as production and graphics manager, assistant director of production and managing director of publications.

At Radiographics, she worked with former editor William W. Olmsted, M.D., current editor Jeffrey S. Klein, M.D., and the first Radiographics editor, William J. Tuddenham, M.D. At Radiology, she worked with former editors William R. Byler, M.D., Stanley S. Siegelman, M.D., and Anthony V. Prots, M.D., and current editor Herbert Y. Kressel, M.D.

“Carol has brought experience and a mastery of production to the RSNA journals,” Dr. Kressel said. “She is a ‘can do’ person who has developed a wonderful, highly skilled team committed to RSNA and its journals. I am delighted to be among the beneficiaries of her work.”

“We hired Carol to bring professional and artistic integrity and flair to the RSNA journals,” said dr. Kressel. “She is a ‘can do’ person who has developed a wonderful, highly skilled team committed to RSNA and its journals. I am delighted to be among the beneficiaries of her work.”

“Carol also has brought her creativity to bear on covers and interior designs of both journals, created in-house ads, guided development of a consistent journal workflow, initiated ‘desktop publishing’ and spearheaded special projects. In all of this, she has maintained a ‘never give up’ attitude whenever the effort was challenging.”

Robert J. Kressel, M.D., former editor

Carol has brought experience and a mastery of production to the RSNA journals, Dr. Kressel said. “She is a ‘can do’ person who has developed a wonderful, highly skilled team committed to RSNA and its journals. I am delighted to be among the beneficiaries of her work.”

“We hired Carol to bring professional production work to the RSNA journal Radiology before computers were involved in print production,” added Roberta E. Arnold, M.H.P.E., RSNA assistant executive director for publications and communications. “Carol also has brought her creativity to bear on covers and interior designs of both journals, created in-house ads, guided development of a consistent journal workflow, initiated ‘desktop publishing’ and spearheaded special projects. In all of this, she has maintained a ‘never give up’ attitude whenever the effort was challenging.”

Robert J. Kressel, M.D., former editor

Catch the Fever: Log onto the RSNA 2013 Annual Meeting Page

It’s still a few months away, but we guarantee you’ll start to catch RSNA 2013 fever after logging onto the Annual Meeting webpage on RSNA.org.

Along with registration, housing, technical exhibits, programming information and much more, the colorful, interactive site features don’t-miss highlights including:

- A preview of France Presents, a celebration of France’s contributions to radiologic discovery and RSNA’s partnership with its French colleagues.
- RSNA 2013 Virtual Meeting information on registration, live sessions during the annual meeting and on-demand sessions through December 13. View videos of educational highlights of the RSNA 2012 Virtual Meeting.
- A roster of RSNA 2013 Honored Lecturers including Condoleezza Rice, Ph.D., who will present the Special Lecture: “Mobilizing Human Potential.”
- RSNA also makes it easy to plan your trip to Chicago by linking users to www.choosechicago.com/plan-your-trip. RSNA has teamed up with the City of Chicago and Bloomingdale’s to offer exciting ways to experience Chicago including multiple city tours, culinary experiences, shopping excursions and museum exhibits.

Stay plugged into RSNA.org for the latest news and up-to-the-minute information leading up to the meeting Dec. 1-6 at McCormick Place, Chicago.

Along with our guide to helping you experience the best of Chicago during RSNA 2013, we preview the RSNA 2013 France Presents session highlighting new discoveries, techniques and practical clinical applications for diagnosing and treating cancer.
### BREAST IMAGING/NEW TECHNOLOGIES TWO-CD COLLECTION

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For more info, contact [ed-ctr@rsna.org](mailto:ed-ctr@rsna.org)