

Association between head and neck radiotherapy and cerebrovascular disease

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Abstract

Radiotherapy plays a key role in the treatment of head and neck cancer, as a definitive treatment or in combination with chemotherapy and/or surgery. However it is related to an increased risk of cerebrovascular disease. It is thought that radiotherapy produces a radiation-induced vasculopathy with endothelial dysfunction, injury and occlusion of the vasa vasorum, and accelerated atherosclerosis. This is represented by an increase in carotid intima media thickness seen in the first 7 years after radiotherapy, with a six fold increase in the incidence of ischemic stroke. There are some few instruments used to predict cerebrovascular disease, all having in common as negative risk factors: advanced-age, hypertension and high cholesterol on statin treatment. Regular follow up and appropriate screening for cerebrovascular disease are required for this population to prevent an ischemic stroke.

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Biography:

Stefanie Mundnich got her medical doctor's degree from Pontificia Univesidad de Chile at the age of 26 and completed her cardiology fellowship at the age of 32 from Universidad de Chile. Recently she has become one of the first board certified cardio-oncologist from the International Society of Cardio-Oncology in USA. She is studying for a master's degree in oncological cardiology from TECH University. Dr. Mundnich is the director of Cardio Onco, the first cardio-oncology consult in Chile whose principal purpose is cardiac rehabilitation for oncology patients.