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**A Controversial Cure for MS: “The Zamboni Effect”**  
**Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency or CCSVI**

In the 2010 Newsletter-#11 we covered the subject of Multiple Sclerosis that reported on the finding of surgery to treat MS. At this point I had heard of an article in the New York Times about the research of Paolo Zamboni, M.D., a vascular surgeon from Ferrara Italy, who observed a phenomena known as CCSVI in a group of 65 patients including his wife who had been diagnosed with MS. His study was published in 2009 in the Journal of Vascular Surgery, purported to find CCSVI in 100 percent of M.S. patients at one stage of the disease. A follow-up study financed by the M.S. Society was being done at the New York State University in Buffalo, led by Robert Zivandinov, MD. What he found was a higher rate of CCSVI in the M.S. patient at a rate of 56 percent then in the health control group at percent. What this means is that CCSVI is a significant abnormality, it is not M.S.-specific finding. These studies were also conducted in other countries such as Italy, and Israel and studies in Germany and the Netherlands found no abnormal blood flow in M.S. patients examined. The discrepancies could also be caused by a variety of factors in the equipment of the ultrasound machines to measure the blood flow in the jugular vein and, whether the patient in the test is sitting or lying down.

Dr. Zamboni’s theory is that the reduced blood in the jugular vein prevents the reabsorption of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and this allows an accumulation of iron, this seems to contradict the current theory of an autoimmune hypothesis. However, the increased levels of iron in the CSF might be the triggering agent for the autoimmune response believed to cause the break down of the brain’s insulation sheath of myelin a fatty substance. Another disease showing increased absorption and accumulation in the brain such as copper is Wilson’s disease and zinc also lead to brain dysfunction.

There has been much controversy over this theory and procedure from established medical institution and some medical authorities. Dr. Michael Arata states in an interview that he has performed this procedure on 1,200 patients since early 2009. During this interview Arata brushed aside the mainstream scientific criticism: “I’m not treating M.S.,” what I am treating is the CCSVI, “I feel very comfortable telling patients, “Yes, you will see improvement in your sleep and energy.” The Zamboni procedure resembles those he does on other vein disorders. The FDA calls such practices off-label, and since it is surgery it is not without risk. Because it has not been proven for treatment of M.S. it will not be covered by insurance, therefore the expected cost will be borne by the patient, which is \$10,000.

This article points out that Zamboni treated his wife Elena with this procedure and she has not had any relapses since, however she is still taking her medication Capaxone, since the surgery. It said that for five years drugs kept her symptoms at bay, but in 2000 “there was a terrible relapse”. The author of a paper that was critical of this procedure Dr. David Hubbard, a neurologist changed his tune when his son, Devin was diagnosed with M.S. in 2009. He had the procedure done and has been free of any symptoms since and he is not using any medication. Currently some 20,000 people world wide have been treated.

I personally know one of my patients who chose to have the “liberation procedure” done, but I cannot see any specific improvement in her M.S. symptoms. That being said she had this done in Albany, NY about one year ago and she told me that she had been diagnosed with M.S. 19 years before. I don’t believe this procedure will make any difference when the damage is done to the myelin sheath of the spinal nerves or the brain. However in a newly diagnosed case of M.S., I believe it makes sense to look for this abnormality and if it is present make the correction early on in the treatment protocol.

I have taken the time to report about this so you have a clear understanding of M.S. and treatment options. I also suggest that you go back and read my original Newsletter/Health Bulletin #11 on Multiple Sclerosis. You can do this by going to my web site paulsprieser.com, then click on the tool bar at the top of my home page “Patient Information”, on the right side of the page you will see all the topics that are in (PDF) format just click on the topic and you can read or have your computer print the text. You can also read the entire article from the Magazine section of the NY Times article 10/28/2012, by Paul Tullis, “A Controversial ‘Cure’ for M.S.”

Now my experience of more than 40 years in chiropractic practice has taught me that I can be of great assistance in stabilizing this treacherous disease and preventing relapses and definitely slow the progress of demyelization. What I know is that patients who receive regular care, which is usually once a month chiropractic/applied kinesiology treatment, don’t have relapses and usually stabilize early on and can expect a much better quality of life. I also know that what I can do and also traditional medical therapies they will not cure this disease, but should be able to control the decline in the patient’s health.

Nutritional support for M.S. is to reduce the inflammation by increasing antioxidants such as Vitamin C, Folic Acid, E, and Carotenoid that protect and conserve the antioxidants, Omega-6 Oils, Support to the Adrenal glands and adding brain tissues such as syringomyelia, and neurotrophic support. All nutritional support can be ordered at our office at a discounted price call us. 973-334-6053.

I always believe that the information that I give must remain, so to speak in the middle of the road. So when I reported this information on M.S. in 2010, I felt I had to report on this follow up. I will suggest, that you read the following Newsletter/Health Bulletin that will support your understanding of this condition, even if they don’t seem related: Newsletter #7 Learning Disabilities, #22 Auto Immune Disorders, and #20 Alzheimer’s.

Call my office if you need more information or call for an appointment.