



MOYA MOYA DISEASE

CHILDREN'S
HEALTH SYSTEM®

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What is MOYA MOYA?

MOYA MOYA is an abnormal development of the blood vessels that supply the brain with blood and oxygen. These blood vessels (arteries and veins) are not formed well and so the flow of blood through them is limited. They may be too small or too narrow to allow blood to pass through. This unusual collection of blood vessels is called MOYA MOYA, Japanese for "puff of smoke", which is what the vessels look like on an x-ray.

MOYA MOYA can affect children and adults and may cause bleeding in the brain as well as strokes. It is possible that the condition may worsen over time. Symptoms can be very different for each patient. One may only have headaches, while others may have a more severe symptom such as bleeding in the brain which can cause muscle weakness or paralysis on one side of the body, speech problems, vision problems or seizures.

How is it diagnosed?

There are several x-ray tests that can be done to confirm MOYA MOYA. Your child may have a CT scan or an MRI scan of the brain. A neuroangiogram is a test in which dye is put into the blood vessels and then special x-rays are taken to see how well the blood flows to the brain. This test gives the surgeon a better picture of how the vessels are formed and how much restriction of blood flow is present. The patient is put to sleep with anesthesia for the neuroangiogram.

How is MOYA MOYA treated?

The body does a good job of making other routes of blood flow when there is a problem with the blood vessels, but it may not develop these new routes fast enough to prevent the symptoms. There is no cure for MOYA MOYA, but treatment is available. Some patients are treated with medicines such as aspirin to help improve the blood flow. In other patients, surgery is offered to try and restore good blood flow. Surgery involves moving good arteries to the areas that do not have enough blood flow with the hope that the new vessels will grow and supply the brain with the needed blood.

A neuroangiogram test is usually done about 6 months after the surgery to check for restored blood flow. Your neurosurgeon will discuss the benefits and risks of each option and make suggestions as to what is best for your child.

What is the Prognosis?

The long term prognosis is good for children treated for MOYA MOYA. Some symptoms get better right away, while others may take up to a year to see an improvement. If major bleeding or stroke has already taken place, the child may not get back some of the functions lost. Even with treatment, some deficits may be permanent.

REFERENCE:

<http://www.kidsneurosurgery.net>

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu>

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