



NEUROLOGY

ASSOCIATES, P.A.

ESTABLISHED 1985

Offices located in
Hickory,
Taylorsville,
Lincolnton and
Denver, NC

www.noggindocs.com

NOGGIN NEWS

Spring 2014
Volume 6, Issue 1

Current Circulation: Over 4,200

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Neurology Associates' Neuroimaging Center Receives MRI Accreditation by the IAC

Neurology Associates' Neuroimaging Center located in Hickory, NC has been granted a three-year term of accreditation in MRI in the areas of MRA and Neurological MRI by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC)

Accreditation by the IAC means that Neurology Associates, PA Neuroimaging Center has undergone a thorough review of its operational and technical components by a panel of experts. The IAC grants accreditation only to those facilities that are found to



Neurology Associates' Neuroimaging staff, Dr. Catherine Weymann, MRI Medical Director (seated) and Pam Stephens, MRI Medical Office Assistant

be providing quality patient care, in compliance with national standards through a comprehensive application process including detailed case study review. "We are very proud to receive this accreditation from the IAC, which found our facility met stringent criteria for excellence. This supports our strong commitment to provide the best possible neurologic care to our patients," said Dr. Catherine Weymann, Medical Director of Neurology Associates' Neuroimaging Center.

IAC accreditation is a "seal of approval" that patients can rely on as an indication that the facility has been carefully critiqued on all aspects of its operations considered relevant by medical experts in the field of MRI. When scheduled for a MRI procedure,

patients are encouraged to inquire as to the accreditation status of the facility where their examination will be performed and can learn more by visiting www.intersocietal.org/mri/main/patients.htm.

IAC accreditation is widely respected within the medical community, as illustrated by the support of the national medical societies related to MRI, which include physicians, technologists and physicists. MRI accreditation is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and in some cases by private insurers. However, patients should remain vigilant in making sure that their MRI procedures are performed within accredited facilities, because for some facilities it remains a voluntary process.



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an extremely useful diagnostic imaging tool, performed an estimated 28 million times annually in the United States, enabling interpreting physicians to

visualize the structure and function of the body. As it provides detailed images of the soft tissue of the body, magnetic resonance is especially helpful in diagnosing issues related to neurological (brain), musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and oncological (cancer-related) conditions.

Clinical Research Expanded



Anna Hopkins
*Clinical Research
Coordinator at
Neurology Associates*

Neurology Associates partners with sponsors (major pharmaceutical companies) and local clinical research centers to offer specialized clinical research studies to our patients and community throughout Western North Carolina and beyond. Anna Hopkins, our new Clinical Research Coordinator works very closely with our physicians and physician assistants to monitor and evaluate patients in clinical medical trials across a broad range of therapeutic areas.

About Clinical Research Trials

Medical research studies involving people are called clinical trials. The term clinical trial includes both interventional and observational types of studies. Interventional studies are those in which the research subjects (patients) are assigned by the study investigator to a scheduled treatment or other intervention and their outcomes are measured.

Observational studies are those in which individuals are observed, and their outcomes are measured by the investigators.

Clinical research trials are conducted under rigorous U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines. At the completion of the clinical trial, the sponsor will then submit the data to the FDA for approval.

Clinical research trials focus on:

- Preventing disease – using drugs, vitamins, and foods to reduce risk
- Treatment-new drugs or combination of drugs; new ways of giving treatment, and new types of treatment
- Diagnosing disease – new tests or scans
- Controlling symptoms-new drugs or complementary therapies

Clinical research trials aim to find out if a new experimental drug or procedure is:

- Safe
- Has side effects
- Works better than currently used treatment
- Helps patients feel better

Clinical trials are designed to:

- Collect data about investigational medications, devices or procedures that may benefit future patients and current research participants
- Assess both the safety and effectiveness
- Provide documentation supporting any claim of safety and/or effectiveness

Neurology Associates is currently recruiting patients for Clinical Medical and Research Trials. If you would like more information about clinical trials or would like to see if you qualify to participate in one, please call our office at 828-485-2488.

New Telestroke Program Launched

Frye Regional Medical Center and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center recently announced the launch of the Telestroke Network. This Telestroke Network provides patients rapid access to neurologists and other stroke experts and to the latest state-of-the-art stroke therapies and interventions.

*Dr. Dale Menard of Neurology Associates
with "SAMI" the new Telestroke robot.*



Employees of the Month

Neurology Associates recognizes the importance of our employees and their dedication to our patients, medical providers and co-workers. Each month all employees of the practice vote on an Employee of the Month (EOM).



September 2013 -
David Crowe,
IT Director



October 2013 -
Mandy Weaver,
Medical Office
Assistant



November 2013 -
Diane Whitener,
Insurance
Associate



December 2013 -
Melissa Harrington,
Medical Office
Assistant

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Testing for Patients and Corporate Employees

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), repetitive strain injuries are the nations' most common and costly occupational health problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of American workers, and costing employers more than \$20 billion a year.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS) is the most common repetitive strain injury that causes significant impairment and disability, accounting for about 50% of all work-related injuries. Symptoms include numbness, pain, and dysfunction of the hand, arm, and shoulder, if severe. A Nerve Conduction Study (NCV) will reveal a trapped nerve in the wrist to diagnose CTS.

For over 25 years, Neurology Associates has been a leader in diagnosing and treating neurological conditions such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The most common test we perform in our office is a Nerve Conduction Study to determine if a patient/employee has CTS. By having this test performed when symptoms first arise will help

minimize down time and time missed from work.

We offer employees on-site workplace CTS screening/ evaluations as part of any company's Employee Wellness program. Please contact our Neuro-Diagnostic Lab Scheduler for more information on testing and CTS screening.



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Dr. Menard Speaks at Adult Children of Aging Parents Group Meeting



Dale Menard, MD
*Physician at
Neurology Associates*

The Adult Children of Aging Parents group presented “Helping Mom and Dad When a Medical Condition Arises” at its February meeting. Dr. Dale Menard of Neurology Associates was the speaker for this program.

With a focus on the caregiver and support person, Dr. Menard shared insights about common conditions of seniors — Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, stroke, cancer, diabetes, depression and others — and helped attendees understand how they may best support their loved ones dealing

with health issues. Attendees gained insight into the conditions and their tell-tale signs, learning when medical assistance is needed, and became aware of how to best work in partnership with medical providers.

The mission of Adult Children of Aging Parents is to support adult-child caregivers as they care for their aging parents and for themselves.

Neurology Associates’ Neuroimaging Center

Neurology Associates schedules patients for MRI procedures every Monday in our mobile MRI unit located on the ground level of our Hickory office at 1985 Tate Boulevard.

All MRI scans performed at Neurology Associates are read by Dr. Catherine Weymann, Board-Certified Neurologist and Medical Director of Neuroimaging.

FDA Approves Headband Device for Migraine

A headband device delivering electrical nerve stimulation can prevent onset of migraine headaches and can be marketed for that purpose in the U.S., according to the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in a recent announcement.

Called Cefaly, the Belgian-made device is the first to win FDA approval for migraine prevention and is also the first transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) system OK’d for any type of pain prevention, as opposed to acute treatment, the agency said.

The device is battery-powered and worn around the head, with the actual TENS stimulator centered on the forehead just above the eyes. It delivers a small, steady current to trigeminal nerve branches. Patients will be instructed to use the device once daily for a maximum of 20 minutes. It is approved for adults only.

Patients assigned to the real device during a clinical trial showed a decline of about two headache days per month, compared with no change in a group without the device. An analysis showed that 38% of patients receiving stimulation had at least a 50% reduction in monthly headache days, compared with 12% of the control group.

The Cefaly device was previously approved in Europe and Canada. The device’s manufacturer, STX-Med of Herstal, Belgium, submitted results of a patient satisfaction survey conducted among more than 2,000 users in Europe, indicating that most regular users believed they had experienced “very significant improvement” and only 4% reported adverse effects.

Across the entire trial group, including those who only used the device infrequently or not at all, 54% reported substantial improvement.

Complaints about the device included dislike of the tingling sensation, sleepiness during the treatment sessions, and headache following the sessions, the FDA said. None of the reported adverse effects were considered serious.

Patient Tip:

- Do you have an appointment scheduled? If so, you can complete your paperwork at home by visiting our web-site(www.noggindocs.com). This can actually cut down on your waiting time and make your appointment go much faster. Website forms are in both English and Spanish.

Questions or comments?

- Please feel free to contact us at 828-328-5500.



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Neurology Associates, P.A. specializes in adult and pediatric neurological conditions, including sleep disorders, headaches, seizures, dementia, stroke, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, dizziness, nerve disorders, and much more.