Neurology Associates Announces Two New Providers to the Practice

We are very pleased to announce the addition of neurologist Karla M. Ledoux, D.O. and Certified Physician Assistant Jordyn Reisenauer, PA-C to the practice.

Dr. Ledoux received her medical degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa and completed her Neurology Residency at the University of South Florida where she was Chief Resident. Dr. Ledoux is now seeing patients in our new Morganton, NC office located at 607 East Parker Road in Morganton, NC.

Dr. Ledoux specializes in general neurology, botox for chronic migraine and performs Nerve Conduction and EMG testing.

Jordyn Reisenauer, PA-C, is a certified Physician Assistant who recently graduated from the Wake Forest School of Medicine Physician Assistant Studies program and received her Certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Jordyn will begin seeing patients in our Hickory office in early July 2016.
The Memory Disorders Center at Neurology Associates provides diagnostic and therapeutic services and treatment for patients suffering from Dementia and Dementia related disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease.

In general terms, Dementia describes a host of symptoms caused by disorders that affect the brain, resulting in serious loss of cognitive ability. While more common in the elderly, Dementia can occur at other stages of adulthood.

It presents first as forgetfulness, but ultimately, this degradation of cognitive ability goes beyond the symptoms of normal aging. Patients lose problem solving skills, control over emotions, memory, the ability to speak and much more. Everyday actions like eating, dressing or driving prove too difficult. Personality changes are common in Dementia patients, as are hallucinations.

Memory loss or mild cognitive impairment in general does not mean a person has Dementia. However, when a patient is diagnosed with Dementia, the condition progressively worsens, shortening the lifespan of the patient.

The most common Dementia is Alzheimer’s disease, which accounts for approximately 50 to 70 percent of all cases of Dementia in the elderly. Dementia can also be caused by various other diseases, such as cerebrovascular disease and stroke. There is no way to prevent the onset of most causes of Dementia.

Other conditions that can lead to Memory Disorders include:
- Parkinson’s disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Huntington’s disease
- Pick’s disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Infections that affect the brain, such as:
  - HIV+infection
  - AIDS
  - Lyme disease

Symptoms of Memory Disorders include:
- Loss of speech/inability to name objects
- Misplacement of personal items
- Memory loss
- Emotional control
- Perception
- Difficulty with routines, calculating, or problem solving
- Loss of joy or desire for familiar activities
- Hallucinations
- Agitation
- Incontinence
- Swallowing Problem

The Memory Disorders Center at Neurology Associates specializes in diagnosing and providing treatment for patients with Dementia. Our expert medical staff takes a patient history, conducts a physical exam (including a neurological exam), and performs mental function tests.
Anticholinergic medications may be linked to increased dementia risk

ABC World News Tonight (4/18, story 10, 0:20, Muir) reported that “certain medications may increase the risk of dementia,” a new study warns. Medicines, “including tablets for cold and flu, allergies and heartburn,” appear to be linked to “memory problems.”

According to CNN (4/18, Tinker), the study “offers the most definite proof yet of what scientists have known for at least a decade: that anticholinergic” medications are associated with “cognitive impairment and an increased risk of dementia.” Such medicines “are sold over the counter and by prescription as sleep aids and for chronic diseases including hypertension, cardiovascular disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.”

TIME (4/18, Oaklander) points out that researchers “analyzed already existing data from 451 people around ages 70-75 who had normal brains,” then “examined the results of memory tests, MRI brain scans and other neuroimaging data – all while paying particular attention to people who said they took anticholinergic” medications. Seniors “who regularly took at least one anticholinergic drug showed poorer cognition, lower brain volumes and less glucose metabolism in the whole brain and the temporal lobe” than seniors who did not. The study was published online in JAMA Neurology.

Dr. Yapundich Takes Part in “Neurology on the Hill”

This past March, Dr. Yapundich along with more than 100 other neurologists from around the country met with U.S. Senators and U.S. House of Representative members in their offices in Washington, D.C. to inform them on current neurologic issues impacting patients today.

New Office Location in Rutherfordton, NC

This past April we opened a new medical office located in the outpatient services department of Rutherford Regional Health System, 288 South Ridgecrest Street, in Rutherfordton, NC. Dr. Yapundich is now scheduling patients one day per month at this location.
Neurology Associates’ Clinical Research Department is currently enrolling patients with the following conditions:

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Stroke of Unknown Source within 3-6 months of stroke

Trials coming this summer 2016:
- Neurogenic Orthostatic Hypotension for patients with Parkinson’s disease
- Migraines (Adolescent and Adult)
- Alzheimer’s Disease

Please contact Anna Hopkins or Teresa Drum at 828-485-2488 for more information.

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.

Patient Tip:
- Do you have an appointment scheduled? If so, you can complete your paperwork at home by visiting our website (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.

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.

www.noggindocs.com