



NEUROLOGY

ASSOCIATES, P.A.

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Robert A. Yapundich, MD • Dale A. Menard, MD • Catherine A. Weymann, MD
Rita G. Katz, PA-C • Jessica M. Cain, PA-C • Tiffany R. Wightman, PA-C • Roger L. Austin, PA-C

U.S Representative Patrick McHenry Revisits Neurology Associates

U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry made a return visit to Neurology Associates for a luncheon to discuss current health care issues in Washington. In addition to providing an update, Rep.

McHenry was very interested to hear from Physicians, Physician Assistants and staff the impact new health care legislation is having on medical practices.

U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry (left) discussing health care issues with Dr. Yapundich.



(pictured from left to right) Amanda Huffman, Office Administrator; David Skaff, Practice Administrator; Jessica Cain, PA-C; Dr. David Duralia; Roger Austin, PA-C; Dr. Robert Yapundich; Joe Bost, Rep. McHenry's Regional Representative; U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry; Dr. Kathy Wilson; Connie Maloney, Front Office Manager; W. Alan Skipper, NC Medical Society



Rep. McHenry and Connie Maloney, Front Office Manager in conversation.



May 28, 2014

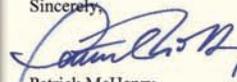
Dr. Robert Yapundich
1985 Tate Blvd SE Suite 600
Hickory, NC 28601

Dear Dr. Yapundich,

Thank you for hosting me for lunch with your associates. I appreciate you and your associates sharing with me what you are facing on a daily basis due to the new healthcare law. Thank you for serving the citizens of the region during this difficult time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime I may be of assistance in the future. Again, thank you for your time and for the opportunity to discuss what the Affordable Care Act is doing to your practice.

Sincerely,


Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Always a pleasure to talk with you - and learn from you.

Pseudotumor Cerebri Syndrome



Rashid Janjua, MD
Neurosurgeon and
Pseudotumor
Cerebri Expert
Wake Forest Baptist
Medical Center

Headache is a very common entity treated in the neurologist's office. This is not entirely surprising as over 75% of Americans have occasional headaches that affect their daily function and ability to enjoy their life.

A small group of patients experiences a type of headache that is continuous in nature and can be debilitating. In addition to that, these patients start losing their vision and if untreated, can even go blind! These patients are most commonly women who are overweight though it can also affect men and in rare occasion it can

be caused by certain medications. In most people however, no cause can be found. The reason for the headaches is increased pressure in these patients' heads: as the skull is rigid, increased pressure in the spinal fluid of the head quickly leads to higher brain pressure and resulting in headache. When these patients seek medical attention, either for their headache or for their visual problems, the treating physician can diagnose the disease by performing a spinal tap (lumbar puncture) in which after the skin has been numbed up, the healthcare provider sticks a tiny needle into the spinal fluid in the back. As this fluid is connected with the fluid in the brain, he/she can measure the high pressure. Most patients respond very well once a few tubes of spinal fluid has been let off allowing the pressure in the brain to drop and relieve the headache. Unfortunately, over time, the pressure rebuilds itself and the headaches rear their ugly heads again.

Fortunately, there are solutions for these patients. The first line of treatment always has to be to educate the patient and their family about the disease. This ailment can be cured by the patients shedding weight! The patients hold their own cure in their hands and actively engage in weight loss through improving their diet and increasing their physical activity. Commonly, the healthcare provider can prescribe medications that aim to lower the pressure in the head making things more manageable. If all this fails, the neurosurgeon is requested to see the patient and can provide

a surgical solution by inserting a tube in the spinal fluid of the head (or back) and allowing this fluid to flow down the patient's belly (a "VP" or "LP" shunt respectively). This provides continuous relief from headaches. Unfortunately, these tubings can get clogged up and need replacement by surgery. Sometimes, this has to be done many times a year and can lead to infections and even bleeding.

At Wake Forest Baptist, we take a different approach: we treat the patient, not just the headache. We empower them to lose weight and have specialists who are invested in helping patients shed the necessary pounds. Our eye specialists are world experts and keep a "close eye" on their vision carefully providing help and avoiding vision loss. As neurosurgeons we maximize your our patient's medical treatment and try to avoid surgery as much as we can. We have gained expertise in evaluating our patients to see if the cause of their problems is a narrow vein in the head which

causes engorgement of the brain by preventing the blood to leave the skull. This engorgement can lead to higher pressure and thus the characteristic headaches. When all else has failed, we try to open the vein up with a tiny balloon: the patients come in the morning and after the procedure return home the following day. In slightly less than half of our patients, the headaches improve significantly with this balloon procedure and they do not require any further intervention. The rest of the

patients experience a temporary improvement and then we can safely tell that opening the vein was effective and the vein may have narrowed back up again. In these patients, we can go back into the vein and place a tiny stent (a hollow metal tube) that keeps the vein open. Most patients experience permanent relief and often can be weaned off of their medication and return to enjoying their lives again. This treatment strategy is unique to the team at Wake Forest Baptist and serves many patients from North Carolina but also neighboring states.

We at Neurology Associates have a very close relationship with Dr. Janjua. For more information on Dr. Janjua click on the link below.

<http://www.wakehealth.edu/Faculty/Janjua-Rashid-M.htm>

Fortunately, there are solutions for these patients. The first line of treatment always has to be to educate the patient and their family about the disease.

What our Patients are Saying.....

We strive to provide our patients with the best possible care. Every three months we provide all patients the opportunity to provide us feedback on their experience as a patient with our practice through a patient satisfaction survey. Here are a few of the comments we have received so far this year...

"I like that you are very concerned and answer any questions I have. Thanks and keep up the good work."

-Timothy

"Rita Katz was awesome."

-Anonymous

"On my first visit I could not believe how much time Dr. Yapundich took with me. He talks in language anyone could understand, I was very impressed. All staff was very nice and knowledgeable."

-Betty

"Was told up front about payment options. Very helpful and courteous staff. Made my daughter feel very comfortable."

-Karen

"Very nice guy that did my nerve test, need more nurses like him. Easy going and easy to make a conversation with in the midst of my testing."

-Roger

Teva Announces U.S. FDA Approval of Three-times-a-week COPAXONE®

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. recently announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the company's supplemental new drug application for three-times-a-week COPAXONE® 40 mg/mL, a new dose of COPAXONE®. This new formulation provides patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) the freedom of injecting just three days per week instead of daily.

In addition to the newly approved dose, daily COPAXONE® 20 mg/mL will continue to be available. "The availability of three-times-a-week COPAXONE® 40 mg/mL is a significant advancement for patients as they now have the option of effective and safe treatment with COPAXONE®, while reducing the number of COPAXONE® injections by 60 percent," said Omar Khan, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Chair of the Department of Neurology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI. "Patients in the U.S. can now benefit from an improved dosing regimen without compromising the known benefits of COPAXONE®."

Teva will continue to provide support to patients on either dosing regimen of COPAXONE® through Shared Solutions®. Shared Solutions® provides free, in-home injection training and refresher sessions, free automatic injection devices (with prescription), and case managers to help each patient research his or her insurance benefits.

PARKINSON'S SYMPOSIUM

Caring for PARKINSON'S Caring for YOU

9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC

Keynote: Dr. Danielle Englert,
Movement Disorder Specialist,
Carolinas Center for Parkinson's
Disease and Movement Disorders

Breakout Sessions

Discussion Panel
with Patients and Caregivers

A FREE educational event for
people with Parkinson's, caregivers,
family, friends, and PD professionals

Register at www.parkinsonassociation.org

September 2014

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SAVE THE DATE

For more information:
866-903-PARK (7275)
www.parkinsonassociation.org

Parkinson
Association of the
Carolinas

Support for Today,
Cure for Tomorrow

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).



January 2014 -
Dave Daniel,
Billing
Specialist



February 2014 -
Angela Robinson,
Appointment
Scheduler



March 2014 -
Victoria Costea,
Medical Records
Associate

What Is a Clinical Trial?

Neurology Associates partners with sponsors (major pharmaceutical companies) to offer specialized clinical research studies to our patients throughout Western North Carolina and beyond.

Our physicians and physician assistants monitor and evaluate patients in clinical medical trials across a broad range of therapeutic areas.

- Clinical trials are research studies designed to answer specific questions about investigational medications.
- The trials are designed to assess both the safety and effectiveness of a product and are carefully conducted under rigorous U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines.
- They are the only way that medications, medical devices, and vaccines can become available to us.
- Every medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter, has been through the clinical trial process.

Benefits of Clinical Trials

- Because medical teams oversee clinical trials, they are oftentimes able to offer quality information and advice regarding the medical conditions that trial participants have. Study-related care and procedures, as well as treatments and supplies provided to participants during a clinical trial are often at no cost.
- Individuals who opt to participate in clinical trials are frequently able to access the treatments used in the trial before they are released to the general public. Another advantage you can gain by

participating in a clinical trial is the ability to generate supplemental income, as many trials pay participants for their time and travel expenses.

What to Expect During the Clinical Trial

- When you qualify for the trial, the study team will monitor you to see how you are tolerating the medication and assess changes to your condition over time.
- The study team follows you closely during the clinical trial to ensure your safety and that study rules and regulations are consistently followed. Depending on the condition that you have and its severity, you may find yourself subject to more doctor visits and diagnostic tests than you'd receive during normal healthcare visits. These visits and tests are designed as part of the clinical trial to ensure that the research site can monitor your safety and health. You will be asked to report any changes in your health to the study site (Investigator and/or Coordinator) and also prior to starting any new prescription or over the counter medications, vitamins or supplements.

**Do You Have Multiple Sclerosis?
Do You Currently Use Rebif® Syringes
to Manually Self-inject?**

If so, you may qualify for a research study.
If you are interested in finding out more information,

Please contact:
Anna Hopkins
with Neurology Associates
at (828) 485-2488



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.

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.



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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.

Questions or comments?

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