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Project title:

Predictors of delay in presentation and early neurological worsening in acute ischemic stroke

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Research Project Description

Stroke is the fifth most common cause of death and a leading cause of neurological disability in the United States. Acute ischemic stroke is treatable, but many patients do not present to medical attention within the time window for intravenous tPA or mechanical thrombectomy. Still others are not treated because their presenting deficits are deemed minor, only to subsequently worsen after the treatment window expires. An understanding of predictors for these situations will allow targeted patient and physician education to increase the likelihood of life-saving and disability-preventing treatment.

There are several research projects available for medical students. One is to examine the factors leading to delay in patient presentation following acute ischemic stroke. Students will assist in identifying patients who presented to the UF Health Comprehensive Stroke Center outside of the treatment window, administer a directed questionnaire to patients or their families, and collect demographic and stroke workup data from the medical record. A second project is to identify predictors associated with worsening after initial presentation. Students will participate in a retrospective chart review of those patients who did not receive acute treatment due to low NIHSS at presentation but subsequently worsened within the first 24 hours.

It is anticipated that these projects will result in opportunities for publication and conference presentation for students. I would be happy to supervise other projects related to acute stroke care, and students with general interest in this area are encouraged to meet with me to develop an individualized supervised research project.