

Global Summit on Stroke

August 03-05, 2015 Birmingham, UK

Stroke, mTBI, infection, antibiotics and beta blockade: Connecting the dots

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Several themes supported by a robust literature are addressed in this clinical translational review and research paper: The inadequate standard of care for minimal Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI)/concussion when compared to stroke because diagnosis and care for mTBI/concussion are based primarily on a symptom only framework; the treatment of stroke (brain injury) with select antibiotics; the use of beta blockade in stroke (brain injury). The various etiologies of brain injury appear to coalesce to common endpoints: Potential neuronal demise, cognitive and functional losses, immune suppression and infection. The use of principles patterned after 'Koch's Postulates' show/prove the presence of infection/illness/disease, treat until resolved appears to be marginalized in establishing a diagnosis and recovery from mTBI/TBI. The pathways of immune system interactions in stroke (brain injury) and infection are briefly discussed. The suggestion of combined specific antibiotic and betablockade for ischemic stroke (brain injury) and mTBI is advanced for treatment and expeditious further study. Stroke is considered a brain injury in this paper. Stroke is also considered and recommended as a study model for mTBI therapy because of their common end points from brain damage. It is suggested that potential transfer or translation of therapy for stroke may be useful in mTBI.

Biography

Gerald Dieter Griffin completed his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley, his PharmD from the University of the Pacific, his Medical Degree from the University of Juarez/Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals of Cleveland combined program. A Flexible Internship at University Hospitals, CWRU School of Medicine, Cleveland was followed by a Residency in Emergency Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas. After a 'tour of duty' at Stanford University as Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine & Surgery, he is currently on the Clinical Faculty of the University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences.

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