

The Overview of the Second Annual Winter Seminar of Cerebrovascular Diseases in Banbuntane Hotokukai Hospital

Sir,

The winter seminar on cerebrovascular diseases is being held annually devoted to the education and encouragement of young neurosurgeons from all over the world. The seminar was organized by the Department of Neurosurgery, Banbuntane Hotokukai Hospital, Fujita Health University, in Nagoya, Aichi, and was held from January 31, 2016 to February 5, 2016.

The purpose of this seminar was to educate young neurosurgeons from all over the world, share knowledge and expertise of senior expert neurosurgeons, and promote continuous education and training in neurosurgery, thereby improving worldwide neurosurgical care to the patients and establishing friendship and collaboration of neurosurgeons from different countries.

Forty-eight international young and senior neurosurgeons from all over the world participated in the seminar. On the 1st day of seminar, 31st of January, there was a welcome speech by the Director of the Hospital – Prof. Hideo Izawa and President of Seminar – Prof. Yoko Kato. Later, there were lectures by senior neurosurgeons – Dr. Shuzo Sato. Dr. Sato explained the common mistakes usually done by many surgeons and ways of avoiding them. The session ended with the lecture by emeritus Professor of Fujita Health University - Hirotooshi Sano who talked about multi-clipping technique of aneurysms. In conclusion, “multi” clip method for the treatment of complex intracranial aneurysms can be a safe and effective method whereas a single clip cannot obtain complete neck closure. Proper preoperative understanding of the three-dimensional anatomy of the aneurysm and appropriate preoperative planning and selection of suitable clipping method, using an appropriate combination of clips, definitely can reduce the morbidity and mortality in these patients.

All the lectures were listened with keen interest, followed by discussion and questions by attendees [Figures 1 and 2]. The program continued in the afternoon with hands-on workshop with simulator models for neurovascular operations such as endovascular coiling of aneurysm, aneurysm clipping, bypass procedures as well as carotid endarterectomies [Figure 2]. Even at the free time between lectures, mentors were ready to answer any questions by attendees. Dr. Daisuke Suyama, one of experienced neurosurgeons of Bantane hospital shared his pearls of endoscopic surgeries for the patients with intraventricular, hemorrhages [Figure 3].

The 2nd day, 1st February, began with the lecture of Dr. Yasutaka Imada. His talk was devoted to postoperative



Figure 1: Attendees listening keenly to the lectures



Figure 2: Young neurosurgeons training microsurgical techniques of vascular surgery



Figure 3: Dr. Daisuke Suyama, a mentor who is always ready to teach and Dr. Sumon Rana, an enthusiastic student

impairments in chronic subdural hematoma operations. After that, Professor Fusao Ikawa talked about surgical

technique for anterior communicating and middle cerebral artery (MCA) aneurysms. Neurovascular surgeries are very complex procedures and it is very difficult to judge the position of the vessels during an operation when you cannot identify them. Adjunctive tools for real-time evaluation of cerebral blood flow during aneurysm surgery are very helpful for surgery. Previously, we had only preoperative imaging such as computed tomography angiography, magnetic resonance angiography, and digital subtraction angiography to plan surgery, but by adding the near-infrared fluorescence module integrated into a surgical microscope, we can also assess blood flow intraoperatively. Dr. Ittichai Sakuranchai's lecture was about the role of indocyanine green (ICG) videoangiography in surgical procedures.

Indonesian neurosurgeon Dr. Thomas Tommy explained the importance of simulated preoperative planning in cerebrovascular surgical procedures. The safety and success of intracranial aneurysm surgery can be improved by the application of preoperative simulation. Dr. Thomas Tommy explained the importance and clinical relevance of preoperative simulation.

The session finished with Dr. Sandeep Talari's lecture about the new method of investigation in cerebral aneurysms - "Computational flow dynamics (CFD) in unruptured intracranial aneurysm management." The study of fluid mechanics helps to understand flow dynamics including flow velocity, blood pressure gradient, and distribution. CFD helps in calculating the velocity of blood flowing in the aneurysm sac, the pressure in the aneurysm sac, and the wall shear stress.

Then, all the attendees were invited to watch live surgery, which was directly transmitted from operation department.

On February 1st, we had lectures by Prof. Fusao Ikawa, Dr. Yasutaka Imada, and Prof. Jie Tang from the Beijing Tian Tan Hospital followed by preoperative discussion of the cases – keyhole MCA aneurysm clipping and microvascular decompression of 7th nerve. After that, the participants could see the cases being operated in the conference room. Some limited participants could also see it directly in the operation room. The cases were performed by Prof. Mori, Prof. Wada, and Prof. Kato, Dr. Takizawa.

On February 2nd, we had a lecture on endovascular interventions in acute ischemic stroke by Prof. Fei Zhemin from Shanghai followed by preoperative discussion of the cases -CEA, C2-C3 aneurysm clipping, carotid artery stenting, ventriculoatrial (VA) shunt, and trans-sphenoidal surgery for pituitary adenoma. The cases were operated by Dr. Takizawa, Dr. Suyama, and Dr. Tadashi Watanabe. Dr. Watanabe also shared his endoscopy experiences with the participants.



Figure 4: Young neurosurgeons and mentors are like one family

On February 3rd, we had lectures by Prof. Tetsuo Kanno who shared his life experiences, the early days of ACNS and AJNS and also the contribution of Japanese neurosurgeons to the Development of Neurosurgery in Asia. He also spoke about the much neglected topic of neurorehabilitation and also his efforts to build a good neurosurgical center in Rangoon, Myanmar, with the support of the Japanese and Myanmar government. It was followed by preoperative discussion for the cases of the day, i.e., MCA bifurcation aneurysm clipping and three aneurysm coiling surgeries (2 c2-c3 and 1 VA posterior inferior cerebellar artery). The case discussion for cavernous sinus meningioma was done by Dr. Tetsuro Sameshima who later operated the case. Dr. Ittichai Sakarunchai from Thailand who had spent 1 year in Japan for training as a fellow also talked on the use of ICG in cerebrovascular surgery and also shared his experiences in Japan. The aneurysm coiling was performed by Dr. Satoshi Ozaki and Dr. Suzuki. The participants had the experience of seeing aneurysm coiling. Later, there was an informal dinner with the participants where everyone had fun.

The last day of the seminar was devoted to YNS presentations from their experiences. Best presentations were given awards and all participants were given certificates by Prof. Sano and Prof. Kato [Figure 4].

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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