

Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Insight into carotid atherosclerotic plaque development with CT angiography

1. Atherosclerotic carotid plaque ulceration on CT is associated with occurrence of non-lacunar stroke. (*this thesis*)
2. Amongst CTA-based carotid plaque imaging biomarkers, plaque ulceration is the most potential and clinically applicable imaging biomarker for risk stratification and therapeutic decision making in stroke patients. (*this thesis*)
3. Quantitative serial imaging of plaque and plaque characteristics is feasible with MDCTA. Its applicability in clinical practice however, will in the first place be impeded by its current measurement errors. (*this thesis*)
4. Atherosclerotic plaque evolution in stroke/TIA patients is a heterogeneous and slow process. (*this thesis*)
5. To better understand the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, the natural evolution of the atherosclerotic plaque should be investigated in asymptomatic persons, as the secondary preventive medical therapy in symptomatic patients contribute to plaque stabilization. (*this thesis*)
6. A carotid web as an underlying cause of recurrent ischemic stroke is uncommon and is easily misdiagnosed as an (ulcerated) atheromatous plaque. (*Elmokadem et al. Intervent Neuroradiol 2016, 22(4):432-7*). You will only see it, if you get it.
7. Cardiovascular risk factor control interventions have significantly improved stroke outcomes. Besides individual-focused approaches, such as plaque-based risk prediction, healthcare system and population approaches to further improve cardiovascular health remain important prevention strategies. (*AHA, Circulation 2016, 133:447-454*)
8. The measures to prevent contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN) in high risk patients have created unnecessary health care costs and discomfort for many patients for years. (*Nijssen et al., Lancet 2017, 389(10076):1312-1322*)
9. Abandoning the standard use of positive oral contrast in abdominal CT examinations would reduce health care costs and patient discomfort without compromising diagnostic reliability. (*Buttigieg et al., Eur Radiol 2014, 24(11):2936-2944*)
10. Children benefit from having a working mom. (*McGinn et al, Harvard Business School Working Paper, 2015*)
11. If there is no struggle, there is no progress. (*Frederick Douglass*)

Marjon van Gils, januari 2018