

OP-ED

Neurointervention in Nepalese Neurosciences Practice: Need of the Hour

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Neurointervention relates to minimally invasive image guided procedures done in neurology, neurosurgery and neuroradiology to treat various conditions in brain, head /neck and spine. The field of neurointervention has seen a sea change in last two decade and now it is an established treatment in numerous conditions in neurology and neurosurgery practice both diagnostically and therapeutically. This has opened new avenues and expanded therapeutic options in treatment of various untreatable conditions. Day care diagnostic DSA(digital subtraction angiography) is offered at many centers and complex procedures require remarkably shorter hospital stay.

Endovascular procedures in acute ischemic stroke has gained its importance after the thrombectomy trials in stroke namely MR CLEAN, ESCAPE, SWIFT PRIME , EXTEND-IA and REVASCAT.¹⁻⁵ These studies have shown a clear benefit of thrombectomy and recanalization in cases of large vessel occlusion, if done timely. Similarly for management of cerebral aneurysm, coiling of cerebral aneurysm has been a standard of care after aneurysm trial ISAT and subsequent follow up analysis.⁶ The management of AV malformation (AVM), dural AV fistulae (DAVF), vascular brain tumors, spinal AVM, carotid stenosis (to name the common conditions amenable to be treated by endovascular techniques) have been possible with endovascular techniques with improvement of overall care and decreasing morbidity of patient .

In Nepal, neurointervention is in infancy, only restricted to common diagnostic procedures and few therapeutic procedures. With advances of science it is need of the hour to have manpower developed and facilities incorporated for the management of conditions where neurointervention has shown a definite benefit. This is possible only with commitment of people concerned in this field with support from government, international experts and various health institutions striving to develop state of art facilities. This will help needy patients to get better care in our own country and institutions at affordable prices without much hassle.

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