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Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia

History

Chiari Malformation was discovered by an Austrian pathologist named Hans Chiari who lived from 1851-1916. The malformation was named after Hans and Julius Arnold, and appropriately dubbed Arnold Chiari Malformation. Although, John Cleland, a Scottish physician, first described the malformation in 1883 and named it Basilar Impression Syndrome, Arnold and Chiari were accredited with its discovery. Chiari is subdivided into five types based on symptoms and severity. Chiari was originally thought to be a very rare condition, but the advent of MRIs has increased the amount of successful diagnoses by a great deal. Research has been limited, but scholars are focusing their efforts on studying families with multiple individuals diagnosed or with a long family history of Chiari.

Facts & Statistics

- Some affected individuals may be asymptomatic
- Chiari Malformation is often defined as the cerebellar tonsils descending more than three to five millimeters out of the skull.
- There is no genetic test year due to the fact that a Chiari gene has yet to be discovered.
- Estimates for individuals afflicted with Chiari range has high as 500,000 in The United States of America.
- Chiari has often been misdiagnosed as Multiple sclerosis prior to extensive knowledge about the malformation being readily available

Desirable Goals

The main goal is to continue research of this malformation in order to facilitate more efficient means of diagnosis and treatment. Funding is greatly appreciated and most certainly pivotal to continuing research. Raising monetary funds and awareness alike will aid in the continuing Chiari movement. In addition, another main goal is to educate individuals about Chiari Malformation. It is still startling that some physicians and nurses know very little to no information about Chiari malformation. Educating physicians and citizens alike will facilitate individuals being successfully diagnosed and treated efficiently.

Organizations and Affiliated Individuals

- Dr. Jeffrey Wisoff
- Conquer Chiari
- American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project
- Ella Grace Chiari Foundation

Concept

On September 19, 2015 East Stroudsburg University will welcome Dr. Jeffrey Wisoff, a neurologist from NYU Medical Center, who will speak at the Keystone Room to the student body about Arnold Chiari Malformation. Representatives from Conquer Chiari will be present on campus that day to further educate the student body, and they will be selling Chiari t-shirts to aid in the funding of medical research. Also, students and faculty alike from the Nursing and Education programs will lead the student body on a Chiari walk around campus to raise awareness and money towards Conquer Chiari.