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The role of revascularization in contemporary neurovascular services

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Resumen

Over the last 30 years the role of cerebral re-vascularisation surgery has been drawn into question by two randomised controlled trials (RCTs - EC-IC Bypass Study and COSS); major advances in endovascular interventional treatment; improvements in the medical management of cerebrovascular disease and the introduction of sophisticated radiotherapy treatments for skull-base tumours.

Despite these developments there remains an important place for both intra and extracranial revascularisation that includes the management of: complex aneurysms; Moya Moya disease and syndromes in children and adults; non-atherosclerotic acquired cerebral ischaemia; selected patients with symptomatic extracranial vascular occlusions. The decision to undertake revascularisation surgery depends on individual patient characteristics; local expertise; an assessment of the safety and durability of either endovascular or surgical treatment and patient preference. A major challenge for the neurosurgical community is to ensure patients have access to neurovascular multi-disciplinary teams that have the expertise and experience to offer all forms of re-vascularisation surgery when it is indicated.

This lecture will consider the indications for cerebral revascularisation and the associated surgical strategies.