



SOCIETY NEWS

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The second annual SVIN meeting will convene in October 2008, in conjunction with the 6th Annual International Meeting of the Neurocritical Care Society, in Miami Beach, Florida.

An executive board meeting of SVIN will be held at 8pm, February 21, 2008, at the New Orleans Marriott during the 33rd International Stroke Conference, in New Orleans, LA. Agenda items will include: an annual meeting update, membership status, financial review, roundtable conference update, neurovascular coalition, CMS coverage report, and comprehensive stroke center partners.

SVIN is preparing a white paper and roundtable conference to develop guidelines for AIS treatment to include triaging criteria for candidates for endovascular reperfusion strategies.

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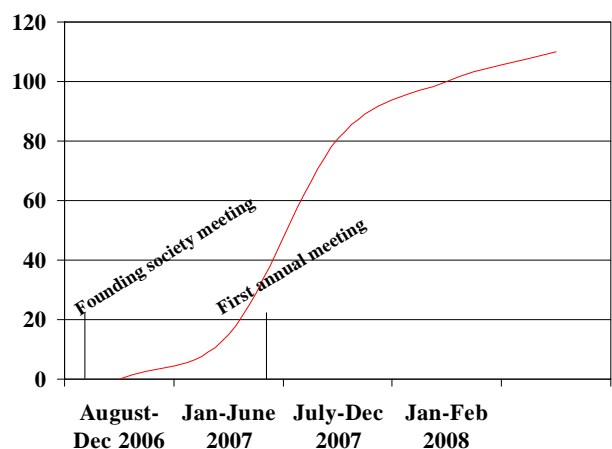


SVIN Inaugural Meeting, Boston, MA, May 2007

SVIN Inaugural Meeting, 2007

The Inaugural Meeting was held in May 2007 at the Westin Copley in Boston, MA. The conference schedule included several renowned guest speakers including Drs. Walter Koroshetz, Jean Raymond, and Louis Caplan. Honorable recognition of efforts towards advancement of neurologists in the field of endovascular therapeutics was awarded to Drs. Fernando Vinuela and Camillo Gomez.

SVIN society membership



INDUSTRY NEWS

The **Penumbra**[™] system, manufactured by Penumbra Inc., San Leandro, CA, for acute ischemic stroke therapy, recently gained FDA approval after successful completion of an international registry trial evaluating the safety and feasibility of the device. Components of the system gaining FDA approval include the microcatheter, clot separator, and suction apparatus. Results of the trial will be presented at the upcoming 33rd International Stroke Conference in New Orleans, LA later this month.

The Center for Medicare Services has reopened the decision for reimbursement policies for **carotid artery stenting** procedures with distal protection devices, inviting public comments for a 30-day period which will conclude March 2, 2008. The SVIN previously submitted a letter regarding the society's policy for carotid artery stenting (CAS) and recommendations for cases justifying reimbursement. The current policy of CMS limits reimbursement to those carotid artery stenoses cases deemed high risk for surgical revascularization, symptomatic with stenoses over 50% or asymptomatic with stenoses over 80%.

The American College of Physicians recently issued a guidelines statement discouraging routine screening for carotid artery stenosis, citing potential risks of treatment outweighing the benefit of stroke risk reduction of intervention.

Two randomized controlled trials published within the past few years, EV3 and SPACE, found lack of efficacy of CAS compared with carotid endarterectomy.

Wellpoint denies coverage for **mechanical thrombectomy** procedures for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke (AIS), citing lack of evidence for these procedures which the health insurance organization considers an investigational treatment option. The SVIN submitted a letter presenting the society's endorsement of these procedures as an important treatment option for revascularization in AIS beyond three hours, for which no other treatment option exists. The current position of Wellspan remains that of noncoverage. Concentric Medical (Mountainview, CA), manufacturer of the Merci Concentric Retriever[™] an FDA approved device has created a hotline for assisting in issues of denied coverage of procedures. Thus far, there are no reports of denied coverage.

The Stenting and Aggressive Medical Management for Preventing Recurrent stroke in Intracranial Stenosis (**SAMMPRIS**) study, an NINDS sponsored study to compare initial intracranial stenting with sole medical management in cases of high grade intracranial stenoses for secondary prevention of stroke, is currently underway and inviting sites interested in participation.

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