

Special Issue

Challenges of Acute Ischemic Stroke

Message from the Guest Editor

Stroke is the second leading cause of death and a major cause of disability worldwide. Its incidence is increasing because the population ages. Although the handling of acute stroke has improved considerably in the past few decades, recent data revealed that two in three patients with ischemic stroke were either dead or functionally dependent at 5 years post-stroke. The success of endovascular treatment is the best predictor of clinical outcome in treated patients, nonetheless a substantial part of patients who reached a successful recanalization do not reach functional independence after 90 days from the event. This underlines the importance of this clinical problem and the urgency to ameliorate the therapeutic strategies. To date, it is crucial to understand the type of microvascular damage that occurs after an ischemic stroke in order to identify potential new molecular therapies targeting the microvascular level to prevent further damage. The early identification of such patients would allow the selection of cases that could benefit from targeted therapeutic interventions aimed to ameliorate the vascular reperfusion of the microcirculation to improve clinical outcomes.

Guest Editor

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