Further Section

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Introduction

We are pleased to provide the readers of *Cerebrovascular Diseases* with this supplement devoted to progressing stroke, which is based on a plenary session to the 6th European Stroke Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, thanks to an educational grant from GlaxoWellcome.

As is well reflected in the following articles, there are both conceptual and practical issues in what is called progressive stroke. Conceptual because worsening of the neurological deficit and progression of ischemia should not be considered as synonymous; practical because progressing stroke may have specific diagnostic and therapeutic aspects. In the conference, the symposium on progressing stroke was the last plenary symposium to take place. This was particularly interesting since one of the messages one took home from the whole conference was that we have to go back to pathophysiology in order to [BgH&r understand the heterogeneity of acute stroke processes, so that our ability to design clinical trials directed at specific targets and patients can improve substantially to avoid joining the too-crowded club of negative trials. We are grateful to the contributors who clarify in their papers the issues of definitions, instruments of measure, mechanisms, predictors and treatment options in progressing stroke.

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