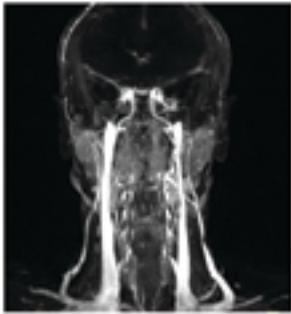
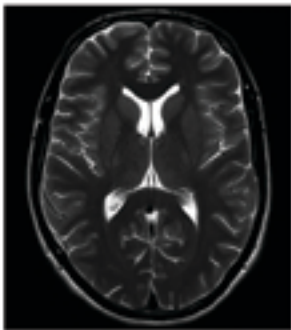


The Relation Between CCSVI and MS



We, like all patients and families suffering from MS, wish to expedite research in this field here in Canada. Whilst there is no proven link between CCSVI & MS, we are dedicated to investigating this possibility with a timely cost effective and closely regulated protocol.



Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) remains a research based cause for Multiple Sclerosis (MS). At AIM we perform a complete contrast enhanced 'traditional' MS MRI study of the brain, cervical cord, MR Venogram including azygous vein in addition to CCSVI research protocol. Currently in the medical literature, the cause and effect of CCSVI and MS remains uncertain. At AIM, we use the research based Siemens MRI protocol developed by Dr. Mark Haake to ensure consistency of MRI data analysis which includes SWI and Flow Quantification.

Dr. Haake's imaging protocol can be found at <http://ms-mri.com/potential.php>.

SWI, a Siemens MRI sequence developed by Dr. Haake, is able to accurately determine iron or other heavy metal deposits in the brain. Researchers suspect iron build up occurs secondary to blocked or narrowed veins in the head or neck in MS patients. SWI is the only way to accurately visualize these iron deposits.

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CCSVI is based on the hypothesis of an outflow (venous) irregularity in the head or neck. A blockage or reversed flow in a draining vein will cause a cerebrospinal vein flow rate change. The flow of the veins within the head can only be shown with Flow Quantification MRI or with Transcranial Ultrasound.

Flow Quantification MRI is able to determine which veins exhibit reduced or reversed flow. We assess the venous flow in multiple areas; including the upper and lower parts of both jugular veins, both transverse sinuses, the superior sagittal sinus and the straight sinus of the brain and/or regions demonstrating vascular narrowing. By assessing all of these structures, accurate blood flow results are obtained. Dr. Haake recommends Flow Quantification MRI be performed as part of his imaging guidelines.

A definite diagnosis about CCSVI is ideally determined at Venography with pressure data. Research into this field is limited and imaging is still in its preliminary stages.

