Editorial

Hope Dies Last—Evidence Again Fails to Support a Neuroprotectant
Cerebrolysin for Acute Ischemic Stroke

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It has been a long-lasting hope in basic and clinical research to identify neuroprotectant agents that improve clinical outcome after an ischemic stroke. Over a thousand compounds have been tested in the western world without identifying a single compound supported by firm evidence for use in acute stroke. Although 21 traditional Chinese medicines evaluated in clinical trials claimed to improve clinical outcome after stroke and 7 of them also allegedly decreased case fatality, cerebrolysin has been used in several countries, with limited healthcare resources in Asia and Eastern Europe. Although subgroup- and post hoc analyses suggested potential benefit of cerebrolysin, these claims should be currently considered only hypotheses. The routine use of cerebrolysin in acute stroke is not justified until randomized well-designed trials indeed prove efficacy in these patient groups. In these trials, patient-centered predefined outcomes will have to be used.

Disclosures

None.

References

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