that the acute increase in intracranial "counter" pressure to arterial pressure values constitutes the mechanism that stops the bleeding. This has also been supported experimentally.\(^6\) The rapid increase in ICP must be due to a sudden rise of the intracranial blood volume. Whether this is caused solely by blood entering the subarachnoid space or, more likely, by an additional increase in cerebral blood volume (vasodilatation) with subsequent "brain tamponade" of the arterial outflow remains to be clarified.

The terms intracranial circulatory arrest and brain death are often used interchangeably based on the understanding that both describe an irreversible lethal condition which, however, is not necessarily the case with circulatory arrest. As illustrated by the case here, intracranial circulatory arrest may occur transiently without leading to brain death, just as brain death does not necessarily imply cerebral circulatory standstill.\(^7\) This should be kept in mind when interpreting single TCD recordings and angiographical studies in cases of suspected irreversible cerebral circulatory arrest. Furthermore, it should be noted that TCD demonstration of diastolic reverse flow in the anterior intracranial circulation does not exclude orthograde flow patterns in the basilar system.\(^3\)

HELMUTH STEINMETZ
WERNER HASSLER
Department of Neurosurgery,
University of Tübingen,
Calwer Street 7, D-7400 Tübingen,
FRG

References


Accepted 13 June 1988

Notices

European Neurological Society: The second meeting will be held in Brighton, England, on 1–5 July, 1990. The provisional topics for instructional courses and symposia include neurogenetics, neuro-ophthalmology, behavioural neurology, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and muscle disease. Further information may be obtained from Dr A. E. Harding, ENS 1990, Department of Clinical Neurology, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, UK.

The Upjohn Prize for neurosurgical research of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies

This prize is offered by the Upjohn Company and awarded annually by the E.A.N.S. Those eligible for the prize should be neurosurgeons under the age of 40 at the time of submission, who are either fully trained or still in the course of their training. Applicants should be either a member of one of the National Societies of the E.A.N.S. or should be supported by such a member. The basis of the manuscript submitted should be previously unpublished research work, either clinical or experimental or both, of relevance in the field of neurosciences. There are no specific regulations for the format or type of manuscript. Twelve copies of the submitted manuscript should be sent to the Chairman of the E.A.N.S. Research Committee before the 1st April 1989. The prize will be presented normally during the E.A.N.S. training course of that year, and the winner will be invited to attend that meeting and to present his work. The Chairman of the E.A.N.S. Research Committee is Professor J Pickard, Wessex Neurological Centre, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton, SO9 4XY.