NEWS Release

YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL

Yale-New Haven Hospital conducting clinical trial for treatment of brain aneurysms

New Haven, Connecticut, February 26, 2009 - Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) has begun enrolling patients in a clinical trial for the treatment of brain aneurysms. Yale-New Haven is the only hospital in Connecticut and among a select few in the world selected for the MAPST (Matrix and Platinum Science) trial. This is an international prospective, randomized, multi-center trial to evaluate the effectiveness and durability of endovascular coil therapy for brain aneurysms. Endovascular coiling is a minimally invasive technique for treating aneurysms and a viable alternative for many patients whose aneurysms might otherwise go untreated.

In a typical endovascular coiling procedure, a microcatheter is inserted into the femoral artery in a patient's groin area. The microcatheter is tracked through the patient's blood vessels (arteries), from the femoral artery up into the brain and to the site of the brain aneurysm. Coils are fed through the catheter and into the aneurysm, filling it and sealing it off from the artery.

Patients who meet study inclusion and exclusion criteria will be randomized to receive either a detachable coated coil with a polymer, or a bare platinum coil attached to a stainless steel delivery wire.

The Yale principal investigator is Ketan R. Bulsara MD, director of neuroendovascular and skull base surgery at YNHH and assistant professor of neurosurgery at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Bulsara is among a select group of neurosurgeons in the United States who is dual fellowship trained in cerebrovascular/skull base microsurgery and endovascular neurosurgery. His unique training allows him to perform both open surgery and minimally invasive surgery for cerebral aneurysms. His extensive training facilitated Yale-New Haven's selection for this clinical trial.

At Yale-New Haven, "the minimally invasive treatment of cerebral aneurysms is rapidly expanding. Many different types of coils are used to treat aneurysms, and there is currently no consensus on the best modality. Like all patients currently treated for cerebral aneurysms, patients will continue to receive state of the art care for their aneurysms whether or not they participate in this trial. The trial allows us to track the long-term success of the coils that are utilized," said Dr. Bulsara.

The MAPS trial, sponsored by Boston Scientific, is a multi-center study that is designed to randomize approximately 630 patients at 50 global centers for treatment of brain aneurysms. Janet Halliday, RN, BS, clinical research nurse coordinator for the Yale-New Haven Stroke Center, is assisting Dr. Bulsara with the trial. For more information, call 1-877-772-9644.

Yale-New Haven Hospital is a 944-bed, not-for-profit hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Yale School of Medicine. Yale-New Haven was founded as the fourth voluntary hospital in the U.S. in 1826 and today, the hospital complex includes Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital, with a combined medical staff of about 3,400 university and community physicians practicing in more than 100 specialties. Visit www.ynhh.org for additional information.