Microvascular Decompression Surgery
for Local versus National Patients

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Disclosure

- No conflicts of interest relevant to the subject matter of this presentation
Introduction – Background

- **Microvascular Decompression (MVD):** Only potentially curative option for Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN) & Hemifacial Spasm (HFS) caused by compression of nerve root entry/exit zone by a vascular loop.

- **Our Centre for Cranial Nerve Disorder (CCND):** 50+ MVD operations per year from all over Canada.

**Goal of Study:** Assess outcome, waiting time, and patient’s satisfaction with MVD for CCND’s Manitoba (MB) and out of province (OOP) patients.
### Method & Analysis

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<th>MB Patients (N=34)</th>
<th>OOP Patients (N=52)</th>
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<td>Recruited from CCND Patients</td>
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- **Age:** 27-78 years (58.6±11.4)
- Patients underwent MVD surgery for TN/HFS at CCND between 2014 and 2016
- All MVD surgeries performed by the senior author (A.M.K.)
- Patients’ charts reviewed & Followed up Questionnaire was conducted by telephone

- Outcome measures: Time intervals between disease onset, diagnosis, referral to CCND and postoperative discharge
Results

- Time between onset to diagnosis: $2.2 \pm 2.8$ years for OOP patients; $1.4 \pm 1.9$ (MB) years for MB patients; $p$-Value$=0.04$

- Time between diagnosis to referral: $3.7 \pm 4.3$ years for OOP patients versus $2.2 \pm 7.8$ years for MB patients; $p$-Value$=0.08$
Results

- No significant difference in postoperative length of stay
  - 35.6±45.9 hours for OOP patients versus 43.4±43.3 hours for MB patients

- OOP patients stayed in Winnipeg after hospital discharge for 3.3±2.8 days
  - OOP patients usually at the adjacent hotel to hospital
  - Most OOP patients returned home by air
Results

- **Satisfaction with the surgery outcome:**
  - 8.8/10 for OOP patients and 8.3/10 for MB patients

- **Referral to CCND:**
  - Self-directed in 61% of OOP patients and only 25% of MB patients (p-Value=0.007)
  - OOP most common referral sources: friends, internet and support groups
  - MB patients most common referral source: Manitoba Neurologists
Discussion

- OOP patients wait longer to get diagnosed & referred to specialist comparing with local patients
- OOP patients must deal with financial issues to get to centers with high MVD surgery load
- Outcome of surgery is similar for OOP comparing with local patients
Summary

- Delays in diagnosis and surgical referral are common across Canada.
- Many patients rely on non-medical information sources to gain access to specialized centers like our CCND through self-referral.
- Outcomes of MVD are favorable for both local and OOP patients.