



International Neurotrauma Research Organization

Internationale Gesellschaft zur Erforschung von Hirntraumata

10 years of INRO!

Newsletter December 2009

Dear all,

First of all let's start by reminding all of us INRO / IGEH has celebrated 10th anniversary in November this year. 10 years! We would not be able to get to where we are right now without your continuous support, help and advice. Therefore, we're expressing big **THANK YOU** to all of you!

And **SPECIAL THANKS** to continuous financial support to **Ala and Ralph Isham and Neurotrauma Foundation!**

Hereby, we would like to share with you a summary of all our achievements in this Newsletter.

Projects 1999 – 2009

- An International Health Care Initiative: Improving Patient Outcome from Head Injury in Central and Eastern Europe (1999-2001). Financially supported by Open Society Grant
- TBI Database Development (2001-2002)
- The Austrian Traumatic Brain Injury Project (In memory of Alfred von Auersperg) (2001-2003). Financially supported by Jubiläumsfonds of the Österreichische Nationalbank
- Reducing mortality and long-term disability of TBI victims through research into treatment procedures used in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Croatia. RESEARCH TREAT TBI. Project financed by the European Community, Program INCO-DEV (1998-2003)
- Analysis of the data from the "Austrian Standardized Dataset for Intensive Care. Supported by AUVA grant (2004-2006)
- Analysis of the data from the ITCP database (2005-2007)
- EU Public Health Programme 2003: Injury Database – Maintenance, Development and Promotion (2003-2006)
- Prehospital and early hospital care for patients with Severe Brain Trauma in Austria (2008-2013)

Publications – last 3 years

1. Mauritz W, Leitgeb J, Wilbacher I, Majdan M, Janciak I, Brazinova A, Rusnak M.: Outcome of brain trauma patients who have a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 3 and bilateral fixed and dilated pupils in the field. Eur J Emerg Med. 2009 Jun;16(3):153-8.
2. Rusnak M, Mauritz W, Lecky F, Kaniansky M, Brazinova A.: Evaluation of traumatic brain injury guidelines using AGREE instrument. Bratisl Lek Listy. 2008;109(8):374-80.
3. Mauritz W, Wilbacher I, Majdan M, Leitgeb J, Janciak I, Brazinova A, Rusnak M.: Epidemiology, treatment and outcome of patients after severe traumatic brain injury in European regions with different economic status. Eur J Public Health. 2008 Dec;18(6):575-80. Epub 2008 Sep 15.
4. Rusnak M, Janciak I, Majdan M, Wilbacher I, Mauritz W.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria I: Introduction to the study. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):23-28.
5. Rosso A, Brazinova A, Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M, Mauritz W.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria II: Epidemiology of hospital admissions. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):29-34.
6. Lenartova L, Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M, Mauritz W.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria III: Prehospital status and treatment. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):35-45.
7. Mauritz W, Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria IV: Intensive care management. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):46-55.
8. Leitgeb J, Erb K, Mauritz W, Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria V: CT findings and surgical management. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):56-63.
9. Rusnak M, Janciak I, Majdan M, Wilbacher I, Mauritz W.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria VI: Effects of guideline-based management. Wien Klin Wochenschr. 2007 Feb;119(1-2):64-71.
10. Mauritz W, Leitgeb J, Lenartova L, Rosso A., Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria: Intensive Care Management. Journal of Neurotrauma, Vol.23, No.5, 2006, p.756
11. Rusnak M., Dizdarevic K., Omerhodzic L., Soljakova M., Splavski B., Vukic M., Giroto D., Masic I.: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Guidelines. Acta Informatica Medica, 14(1), 2006, 10-12
12. Rusnak M., Leitgeb J., Lenartova L., Rosso A., Janciak I., Wilbacher I., Mauritz W.: Guidelines-based management of patients with severe TBI. Journal of Neurotrauma, Vol.23, No.5, 2006, p.758
13. Leitgeb J, Erb K, Lenartova L, Janciak I, Wilbacher I, Rusnak M, Mauritz W.: Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Austria V: Surgical Management. Journal of Neurotrauma, Vol.23, No.5, 2006, p.799

People

Currently, the following experts represent the INRO / IGEH team:

Prof. Martin Rusnak, MD, PhD – President of Board of Directors

Prof. Walter Mauritz, MD, PhD – Vicepresident of Board of Directors

Alexandra Brazinova, MD, MPH, PhD - Executive Director

Marek Majdan, DrPH PhD

Zuzana Cernuskova, MPH

Johannes Leitgeb, MD

Lucia Lenartova, DrPH

Mag. Ingrid Wilbacher, PhD



Previously, also other people have closely cooperated with us, such as:

Annalisa Rosso, MD, Patrick Weninger, MD, Balazs Zobor, Valerie Rudel, MD, Katharina Erb, MD, and others.

Current activities

Right now, we are mainly busy with the project: Prehospital and early hospital care for patients with Severe Brain Trauma in Austria.

In the project we have 16 centers participating, from all over Austria:



The project has started in the end of 2008. By the end of 2009 we have collected data on 200 patients in our database. We aim to collect about 400 patients by the end of March 2010. After the data analysis we will prepare Prehospital and Early Hospital TBI treatment guideline for Austria (2011). The participating centers will implement the guideline (2012). After the second data collection period we will analyse the data of patients treated according to the implemented guideline (2013). The project objective is to improve health outcomes of TBI victims by standardizing the treatment, with a special focus on the crucial early phase of the treatment.

Another project we have started in 2009 is the **evaluation of the impact** of all INRO / IGEH projects on the TBI management in centers that have participated in our activities implemented by now.

We have also put together and had printed out a representative folder with comprehensive information about INRO. We use it for promotion of the organization.

2009 Meetings

Apart from regular meetings of INRO / IGEH team, we had several strategically important meetings for our future existence:

We have met with Dr. Nicholas Steinhoff, who is organizing 1st European Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, which is being held in Vienna in February 2011. INRO / IGEH was proposed to lead a section on use of guidelines at this conference.

In the end of the year we have met with Mr. Karas, Austrian member of European Parliament. We have discussed with him the options for INRO's involvement in activities at the European level. We will pursue these chances further and hopefully will initiate Europe-wide TBI network project. The meeting was organized thanks to the initiative of the board members.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!
Please stay in touch.

The team of INRO (from left):

Marek Majdan, Prof. Walter Mauritz, Zuzana Cernuskova, Alexandra Brazinova, Lucia Daubnerova, Franziska Riedler, Martin Rusnak

is wishing you Merry Christmas and all the best in the year 2010!