



University at Buffalo Medical Center Issues Preliminary Findings of Venous Insufficiency Prevalence in MS

On February 10th, the University at Buffalo Medical Center issued a release reporting on its preliminary findings in its study of venous insufficiency prevalence in MS.

[Read the release.](#)

This is the largest study to date looking at the possible relationship between CCSVI and MS disease process. The results reported are based on the first 500 participants in the Combined Transcranial and Extracranial Venous Doppler Evaluation study.

The preliminary results reported were interesting but somewhat mixed. At least 55 percent of the MS cohort participating in the initial phase of the study showed narrowing of the extracranial veins causing restriction of normal outflow of blood from the brain. This was also true for at least 22 percent of the healthy controls. As interpreted by the investigators, the narrowing of the extracranial veins, at the very least, is an important association in MS and encourages them to continue on the same research course. They advise that they will know more when the MRI and other data collected in the study are available, which for instance, will measure iron deposits in lesions and surrounding areas of the brain.

"The MS Society receives with interest this new information on the possible association between CCSVI and MS as it is the first study attempting to confirm the hypothesis. It is important to note that this data is only a preliminary snapshot of results. Any detailed commentary is premature because it has yet to be presented in a peer-reviewed format. Importantly, these findings differ from the original premise that all people with MS have CCSVI and that people without MS do not. However, the results confirm the need for further research as they show a moderate association between CCSVI and MS. The MS Society is pleased to fund proposals on CCSVI and MS through its special call for research applications. Funding announcements will be made in June of 2010. The results also show that CCSVI is not present in all people with MS – 43.6% of people with MS did not meet the criteria for CCSVI. This is an important note as we've always understood MS to be a very complex disease with multiple contributing factors. It is interesting to observe that many people without MS have the condition as well," said Dr. Paul O'Connor national clinical and medical advisor for the MS Society of Canada.