OSTRAVSKÁ UNIVERZITA
LÉKAŘSKÁ FAKULTA

Study title: PREVALENCE OF CAROTID WEB IN YOUNG ADULTS USING SONOGRAPHY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY
ID: G25-498516
Date: August 20, 2025

INFORMED CONSENT
to participate in research

Dear Sir or Madam,
We would like to ask you to consider participating in a research project entitled PREVALENCE OF CAROTID WEB IN YOUNG ADULTS USING SONOGRAPHY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY, conducted by Prof. David Školoudík, MD, PhD, from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ostrava.
If you agree to participate in the research project, please sign below to express your consent to the statement in the second part of this document.

I. RESEARCH INFORMATION

Research project objectives
A carotid web is an abnormal structure in the main carotid artery that appears in childhood or early adulthood. The presence of a carotid web is associated with a significantly higher risk of stroke, which can, however, be significantly reduced by preventive treatment.
CT (CT angiography) is most commonly used to diagnose carotid web, but this requires the injection of a contrast agent. However, it can also be detected without the need for an injection, using ultrasound – duplex sonography.
Its prevalence in the young adult population is currently unknown but is estimated to be between 0.5% and 2%. The aim of this project is to determine the prevalence of carotid web in the young adult population aged 15–25. Ultrasound examination will be used to diagnose carotid web. If carotid web is found, a specific ultrasound examination and, if necessary, CT angiography will be performed, and preventive treatment will be set up to reduce the risk of stroke.

Your participation in the project
Your participation in the research project is entirely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you can withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason. Your decision to participate or refuse to participate in this project will not affect the healthcare you receive in the future or the relationship between you and your healthcare providers.

What participation in the project means for you
If you agree to participate in the study, we will perform a painless ultrasound examination of your carotid arteries. The examination takes about 5 minutes and carries no health risks. If a carotid web or other pathological finding is found in your carotid artery, you will be referred for further examination to the specialized vascular neurology clinic Cerebrovaskulární

poradna s.r.o., Bieblova 2, Ostrava, where further examinations (ultrasound examination, possibly CT angiography of the carotid arteries) will be performed and you will be recommended the optimal preventive treatment to reduce the risk of stroke (antiplatelet drugs, drugs according to identified risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol). This additional examination and treatment is covered by your health insurance.

Handling of information and results obtained

Your personal data will be processed within the research project in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation; GDPR) and Act No. 110/2019 Coll. on the processing of personal data. Only authorized researchers participating in this study will have access to your data. These persons are required to ensure and maintain the confidentiality of your data.

None of your personal data (name, birth number, date of birth, etc.) will be collected, and you will be assigned a random numerical code in the study. All measured or provided data will be processed after "anonymization," i.e., after replacing personal data with a numerical code. The file containing data linking identification data (full names of participants and contact details) with the numerical code used for anonymization and further processing of the measured data will be stored on the hard drive of the LF OU computer of the research team and will not be shared further. The data obtained will be used exclusively for scientific purposes without disclosing your name and other identifying information (i.e., without contact information and date of birth).

The results of the monitoring will be published in professional journals and presented at professional conferences. You will not be personally named in any report or publication.

Benefits of participating in the research project

By participating in the study, you will find out whether you have carotid artery disease that could increase your risk of stroke. If a pathological finding is detected, you will be immediately referred to a specialized facility for further examination and optimal treatment. Participation in the study is not associated with any financial compensation.

Potential risks associated with participation in the project

Your participation in the study does not involve any health or other risks.

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II. RESEARCH PARTICIPANT DECLARATION

I declare that I voluntarily agree to participate (or allow my child to participate) in the above-mentioned research. Furthermore, by signing this document, I confirm that:

- I have been informed about the nature, objectives, methods, and procedures that will be used in the research, as well as the benefits and risks that participation in the research entails for me;
- I have been informed that I have the option to withdraw from the research at any time, even without giving a reason;
- I had the opportunity to consider everything properly, calmly, and with sufficient time; I had the opportunity to ask the researcher anything I considered essential and necessary to know, and I received clear and comprehensible answers to my questions;
- I understand that any use and publication of data and outputs resulting from the research does not entitle me to any remuneration or compensation, i.e. I grant all rights to use and publish data and outputs resulting from the research free of charge;
- I understand that all data obtained will be processed anonymously, used only for research purposes, and that the results of the research may be published anonymously and further used.

This informed consent is made in two copies, each valid as an original, one of which will be received by the research participant (or legal representative) and the other by the project investigator.

Name of participant of the study:

_____
Signature of the participant

In …… on ……

In the case of minors, consent must be given and signed by a legal guardian and, depending on age, by the minor themselves.

Name of the responsible researcher:

_____
Signature of the researcher

In …… on……