

# PROVA ORALE N. I

Ricerca bibliografica per la ricerca clinica.

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# **PROVA ORALE N. 2**

lter attuativo di uno studio scientifico: dall'idea alla pubblicazione.

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## **PROVA ORALE N. 3**

Caratteristiche qualitative di un lavoro scientifico.

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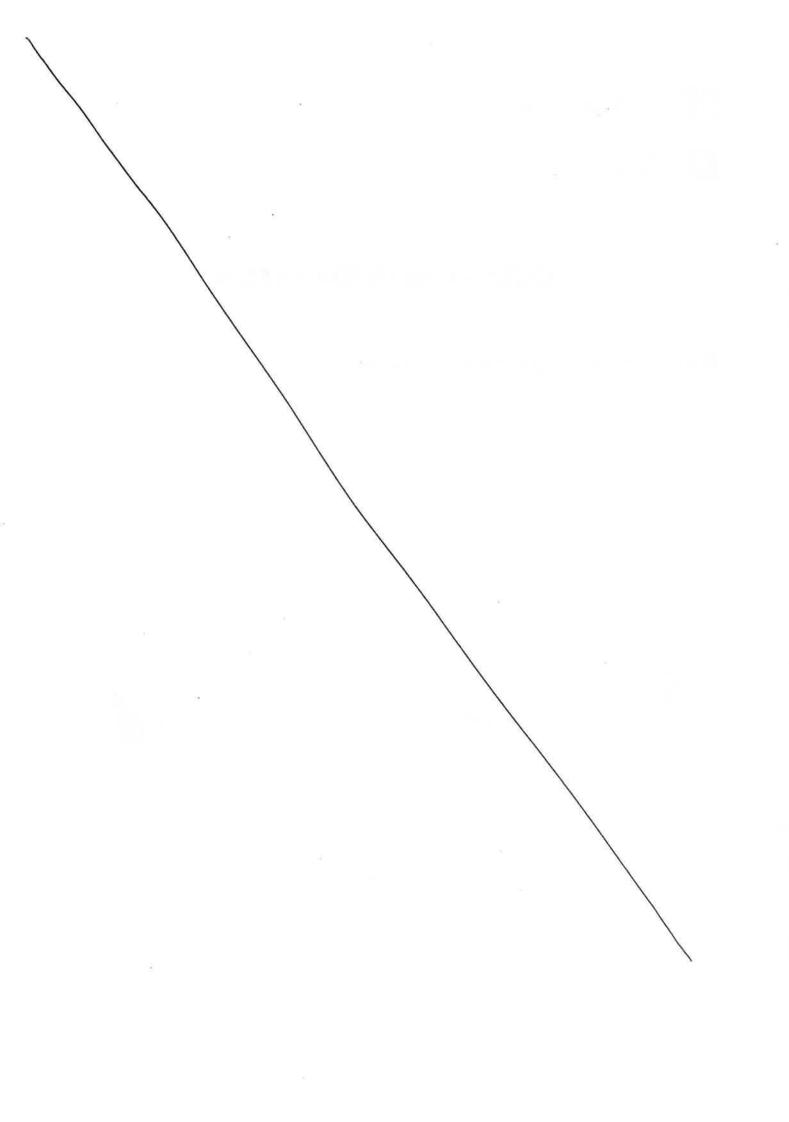
# **QUESITO DI INFORMATICA**

Programmi per la gestione di Database.

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Postoperative change in baseline parameters (heart rate, mean arterial pressure, hematocrit, and  $PaCO_2$ ) can potentially affect Vmca, THRR, and  $CO_2$  reactivity. Although the difference in these variables between the impaired and intact THRR groups did not reach statistical significance (Tables 1, 2), it did approach significance for heart rate and mean arterial pressure (P=0.06), and hematocrit (P=0.07). However, the differences were not clinically significant either, thereby making it unlikely that these differences would have affected the results of postoperative change in Vmca, THRR, and  $CO_2$  reactivity.

## Effect of Tumors on CO<sub>2</sub> Reactivity

Decreased CO<sub>2</sub> reactivity is seen in a number of conditions, <sup>26–28</sup> and suggests poor outcome in comatose patients. <sup>29</sup> Although Palvolgyi<sup>8</sup> reported the loss of CO<sub>2</sub> reactivity in patients with tumors, Paulson et al<sup>9</sup> observed only a "dissociated vasoparalysis" that is, loss of autoregulation with preserved CO<sub>2</sub> reactivity. Dissociated vasoparalysis has been described as a sign of tissue acidosis and has been thought of as a stage in gradual transition from normal vasomotor function to complete vasomotor paralysis. <sup>9</sup> Our data indicate preservation of CO<sub>2</sub> reactivity in all patients with supratentorial tumors with dissociated vasoparalysis occurring in 7 (20%) patients. We did not assess the cerebrovascular response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> tensions because of the risk of increasing intracranial pressure.

### Limitations

Major limitations of this study include the facts that autoregulation was studied only once after tumor decompression and that we do not have long-term outcome data. Hence, we cannot comment on whether autoregulation improved 24 hours after surgery in cases where it was impaired preoperatively, nor can we comment on the long-term implications of impaired autoregulation in these patients. Moreover, our sample size is relatively small. Despite these limitations, this study brings up the important fact that cerebral autoregulation might be compromised in patients presenting for surgery for supratentorial tumor, potentially subjecting them to increased risk of secondary results in perioperative period.

#### Summary

Preoperative cerebral autoregulation was impaired in a significant number of patients with large supratentorial tumor size and midline shift more than 5 mm and was associated with postoperative impaired cerebral autoregulation during the first 24 hours after surgery. These findings define the risk factors for impairment of cerebral autoregulation in neurosurgical patients undergoing tumor decompression and may help to guide perioperative optimal blood pressure control and in selection of anesthetic agents in these patients.

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