

At Synergy we feel that imaging is the cornerstone of each patients treatment plan. It forms the initial building block for the consultation, for the procedure, and for follow-up. The following information summarizes our views and is taken directly from Dr. Mark Haacke's website: [www.ms-mri.com](http://www.ms-mri.com).

## **WHY IMAGING IS CRUCIAL FOR MS PATIENTS PRE AND POST TREATMENT**

There has been a great deal of discussion on the role of imaging pre and post treatment of CCSVI.

It is important to understand that every person is different and the geometry of the venous system is different as well. Bearing in mind that MRI provides complete 3D information of the vascular system and the anatomy of the body, it has been suggested that MRI is critical for the following reasons:

- 1) It provides key neurological information for the patient and the neurologist following the patient such as the presence or absence of lesions which are markers for the state of the disease
- 2) It provides a means to monitor iron content.
- 3) It can visualize arteries and veins in the head, neck, spine and aortic arch which are key elements in treatment planning for the interventionalists.
- 4) It provides a means to measure blood flow in each major vessel everywhere in the body.
- 5) It can quantify quantitative information on perfusion to the brain tissue.
- 6) These data serve as a control prior to treatment. The information is objective and quantifiable. This is especially critical in case the patient suffers from restenosis. These flow measurements can be repeated as can the MR angiograms non-invasively. MRI itself is a non-invasive safe imaging procedure.
- 7) It can be used for follow up whether or not there is restenosis. Longitudinal follow up could well serve as an indicator as to the status of the disease, i.e., the presence or absence of new lesions, a stable vascular system, changes in iron content, etc.
- 8) These records become a key component in comparing to the venous angioplasty and patient outcomes.