



Dr. Robert A. Kuhn holds dye gun he invented. Injected dye exposes any blocked neck-blood vessels on X-ray film.

name is cerebrovascular angiography—a medical jaw-breaker for “brain blood-vessel pictures.”

Following the accurate diagnoses which angiography makes possible, today's brain specialists bring people back from the brink of death, or worse, the living death of uselessness—by judiciously combining (1) improved anticoagulants to keep blood from clotting, (2) amazing new chemicals that actually dissolve blood clots when they have formed and caused a stroke, and (3) something heretofore unheard of in stroke cases: routine surgery.

ONE OF THE most valuable discoveries to emerge from this all-out assault on our biggest killer of people in the prime of life is that, in at least 10 percent of stroke victims, the blockage of blood supply to the brain occurs not in the brain itself but in the neck!

A fatty growth called an atheromatous plaque—cause unknown—narrows one or more of the four neck arteries through which the brain receives its enormous requirements of blood (20 percent of the body's total supply, or a complete change of freshly oxygenated blood from the lungs and heart every six seconds). You can feel this surge of blood in the two arteries which rise on either side of the neck below and forward of the ear. The other pair, called vertebrae, hug the spinal column.

Since all four are easier to get at than the brain itself, skilled surgeons can now safely remove fatty plugs from these arteries to restore mind and body function in people whose condition was formerly thought to be hopeless.

There is growing support for the view that many cases of “second childhood” in oldsters stem from fat-plugged neck arteries. When Grandpa starts acting foolish, it simply may be a sign that his brain is not getting enough blood. In such cases his family may find that by persuading him to let a doctor investigate for blockages in his neck arteries—the site where they occur most commonly—they have given him a chance to enjoy his sunset years in full possession of his faculties.

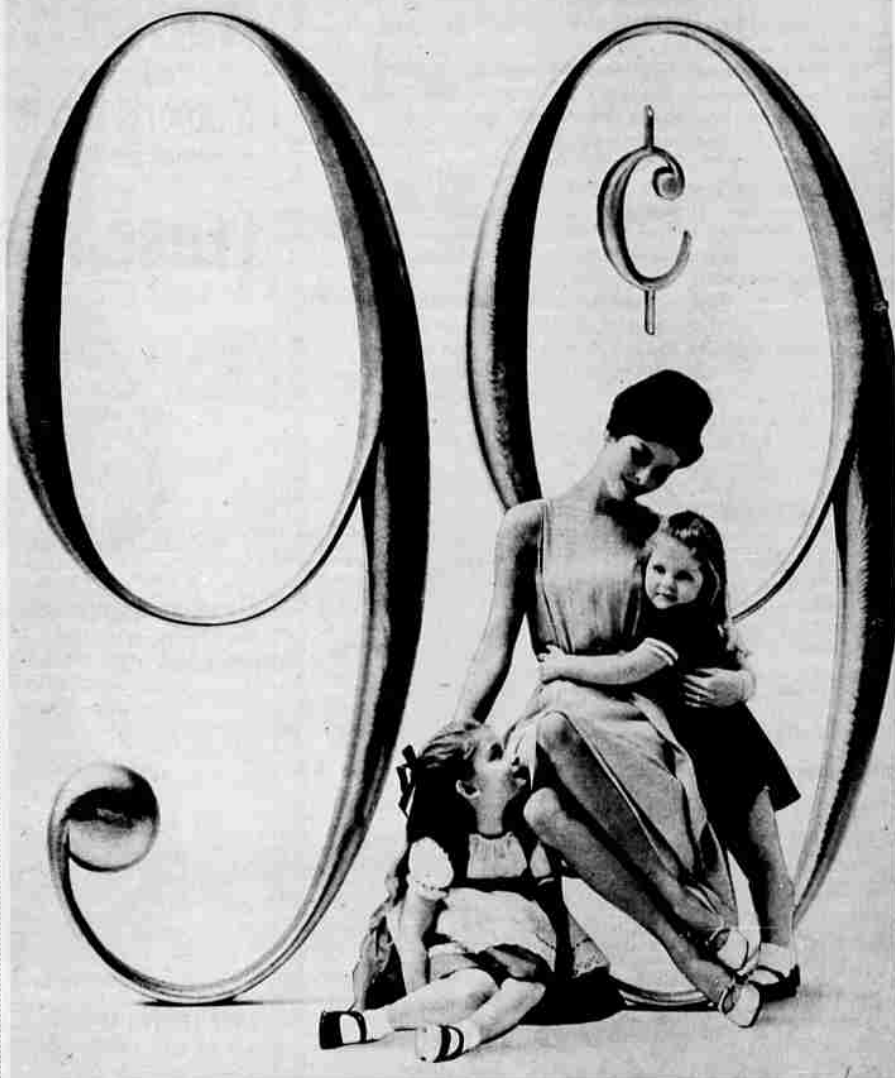
How does a doctor “investigate neck arteries”? Laymen seldom see surgery, but for more than a year I have regularly had the privilege of watching Dr. Kuhn, a pioneer in this field, perform his miracles on the ailing human brain with a dye gun and a scalpel.

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