Selective degeneration of cholinergic terminals in progressive supranuclear palsy

Control vs progressive supranuclear palsy

“Imaging to demonstrate loss of intrinsic striatal cholinergic neurons appears to have great promise for distinguishing [PSP] from other conditions.”

Autoradiographic studies by Suzuki et al. showed that in postmortem tissue from subjects with PSP there was a decrease in both dopaminergic and cholinergic terminals in basal ganglia. The severity of reduction acetylcholine vesicular transporter in PSP may distinguish it from other basal ganglia disorders.

see page 1013

The editorial by Eidelberg and Dhawan points out the continuing difficulty in using PET or SPECT to distinguish between PD, PSP, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, MSA, and striatonigral degeneration. The Suzuki et al. paper may pave the way to in vivo techniques that will distinguish PSP from other disorders.

see page 997

Do patients with dementia vote?

The Karlawish et al. survey of caregivers found that a substantial proportion of patients with predominantly mild to moderate dementia voted in the 2000 US Presidential Election. The proportion with AD who voted (69%) was higher than the proportion of registered voters who voted.

see page 1100

In their accompanying editorial, Henderson and Drachman point out that “a diagnosis of AD does not necessarily mean that the affected person cannot vote rationally” but note that with 4 million demented patients in the United States, including nearly a million in nursing homes, caregivers could be given reasonable guidance on voting as on other matters.

see page 995

Excessive daytime sleepiness in PD

Arnulf et al. found that 40% of 54 sleepy PD patients showed abnormal daytime REM sleep periods resembling narcolepsy. Since sleepiness was not correlated with age, motor and cognitive impairment, dopaminergic treatment, and night sleep quality, it may result from PD pathology.

see page 1019

APOE and survival in Alzheimer’s disease

The influence of the APOE gene on survival was assessed in patients with AD followed by Dal Forno et al. for at least 10 years until death. Length of survival was equivalent in men and women (median, 12 years from symptom onset). Having an $\epsilon 4$ allele significantly increased risk of death in men only.

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continued on page 994

Apolipoprotein E $\epsilon 4$ and outcome of traumatic brain injury (TBI)

Lieberman et al. studied results from repeated administrations of a neuropsychological test battery to 87 patients with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI). The data suggest that *APOE* genotype influences the severity of the acute injury. However, there was no consistent pattern to the recovery curves, so that it is not clear if *APOE* genotype influences the rate of recovery.

see page 1038

Crawford et al. examined the relationship between *APOE* genotype and memory following TBI in veterans and active military personnel. Memory performance was worse in the 30 subjects with an $\epsilon 4$ allele than in the 80 without the $\epsilon 4$ allele.

see page 1115

Seasonal variation in markers of disease activity in MS

Killestein et al. observed significant seasonal fluctuations in the ability of circulating T cells to produce proinflammatory cytokines in longitudinally MRI-monitored Dutch MS patients. Maximum values were found in samples obtained during autumn. These findings suggest an environmental role of T-cell activation in MS.

see page 1077

Inability to control anger or aggression after stroke

Kim et al. found 47 of the 145 stroke patients (32%) had inability to control anger/aggression that was closely related to motor dysfunction, dysarthria, emotional incontinence, and frontal–lenticulocapsular–pontine base lesions.

see page 1106

($\times 200$) *H and E staining: high density of astrocyte-like tumoral cells with nuclear abnormalities associated with necrosis and vascular proliferation*

Successful gene therapy of glioblastoma

Valéry et al. studied a patient with recurrent glioblastoma. This patient had no clinical MRI or histologic signs of relapse 3 years after suicide gene therapy when she died from coincidental disseminated breast carcinoma.

see page 1109

APOE and ALS

Lacomblez et al. studied *APOE* phenotype and plasma levels in 403 ALS patients. *APOE* protein levels but not *APOE* alleles correlated with survival in ALS: high levels correlated with decreased survival.

see page 1112

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