In Focus

Spotlight on the September 7 Issue

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Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*®

Brain choline concentration: Early quantitative marker of ischemia and infarct expansion?

The authors performed multivoxel ^1H MRS plus diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in 31 patients within 26 hours, and DTI at 37 days, after ischemic stroke. They found that noninvasive assessment of brain metabolism in acute ischemic stroke could be used for assessing tissue prognosis and guiding therapeutic decisions in patients who have a high probability of lesion expansion.

See p. 850

From editorialists Barber and Wechsler: "The identification of the ischemic penumbra remains important, but we should not lose sight of the importance of determining the severity of the ischemic process, since avoiding adverse outcomes must concern us as much as producing good outcomes."

See p. 844

Regional patterns of brain tissue loss associated with depression in Parkinson disease

The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale was administered to 40 patients with Parkinson disease and 26 healthy subjects. Patients with Parkinson disease and depression showed tissue loss in the cortical-limbic network, compared with nondepressed patients, thus reinforcing the hypothesis of depression in Parkinson disease as a "disconnection syndrome."

See p. 857; Editorial, p. 846

Distinct cerebral perfusion patterns in FTLD and AD

Quantitative cerebral blood flow imaging with arterial spin labeled (ASL) perfusion MRI was performed in 42 patients with frontotemporal lobar degeneration and 18 patients with Alzheimer disease. Doubly dissociated areas of hypoperfusion were consistent with areas of significant histopathologic burden in both

groups. ASL can be a useful biomarker for distinguishing patients with these diseases.

See p. 881

The core network in absence epilepsy: Differences in cortical and thalamic BOLD response

In 11 children with typical absence epilepsy, the authors confirmed a core network of structures involved in generalized epileptiform activity that included the reticular structures of the brainstem. They identified changes in parietal BOLD signal which preceded the onset of epileptiform activity, suggesting that the parietal cortex has a role in the initiation of epileptiform activity.

See p. 904

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Challenge of the unknown: A systematic review of acute encephalitis in non-outbreak situations

The authors systematically reviewed published literature on incidence and etiology of encephalitis, examining possible determinants for failure to identify etiology. They found that encephalitis of unknown etiology could be caused by emerging infections or novel forms of immune-mediated encephalitis.

See p. 924

NB: "Pearls & Oy-sters: Electroconvulsive therapy in anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis" see p. e44.

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