In Focus

Spotlight on the September 21 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]

Ischemic diffusion lesion reversal is uncommon and rarely alters perfusion-diffusion mismatch

This trial randomized 27 patients to IV tPA and 33 patients to placebo after acute ischemic stroke onset. Apparent reversal involved a median 46% of the baseline DWI lesion and was associated with less severe baseline hypoperfusion in these patients; however, this cohort had no significant differences in baseline characteristics.

See p. 1040

From editorialist Judith U. Harrer: "The study by Chemmanur et al. is an important step toward the safe application of the mismatch theory in clinical practice."

See p. 1034

Diffusion tensor imaging, permanent pyramidal tract damage, and outcome in subcortical stroke

The authors acquired diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in 18 stroke patients with subcortical ischemic infarcts affecting either the pyramidal tract group or nonpyramidal tract group. The methods and results presented may lead the way toward DTI becoming a clinically useful outcome predictor or surrogate outcome marker in subcortical stroke.

See p. 1048

Mild cognitive decline in Parkinson disease

Siderowf et al. found that lower baseline CSF amyloid β levels predicted cognitive decline in patients with Parkinson disease (PD), suggesting the value of biomarkers to predict immediate dementia risk in PD. The study by Aarsland et al. of over 1,000 PD patients without dementia found that 25% of patients met criteria for mild cognitive impairment, with memory, visuospatial, and attention-executive deficits all being common.

See p. 1055 & p. 1062

Neurodegenerative basis of age-related cognitive decline

The authors tested the hypothesis that neurodegenerative lesions associated with late-life dementia contributed to age-related cognitive decline. The neuropathologic lesions traditionally associated with dementia were primarily responsible for gradual age-related cognitive decline that precedes dementia, indicating a greater role in dementing disorders than previously recognized.

See p. 1070

Long-term follow-up of neuromyelitis optica with a pediatric onset

Twelve children with neuromyelitis optica (NMO) were retrospectively followed up during a mean 19.3 years and compared to 113 adult-onset NMO patients. Pediatric-onset NMO patients may present with a diffuse inflammatory process on initial brain MRI and have a longer time to disability than adult-onset NMO patients.

See p. 1084

Intravenous aspirin (lysine acetylsalicylate) in the inpatient management of headache

This study demonstrates the use of IV aspirin as a practical, effective, well-tolerated treatment of severe headache in the context of inpatient management. There were reliable improvements in headache greater than 3 points on a 10-point VAS scale and a side effect rate of less than 6%.

See p. 1098

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NEUROLOGIC PRACTICE

Trends in American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology specialties and neurologic subspecialties

The investigators used multi-year trend data to summarize the current status of American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology neurologic specialties and subspecialties. They highlight several complex factors that will determine the long-term viability of subspecialties.

See p. 1110

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