In Focus

Spotlight on the February 22 Issue

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Asymptomatic spinal cord lesions predict disease progression in radiologically isolated syndrome

Clinical progression was observed in 84% of radiologically isolated syndrome subjects with asymptomatic spinal cord lesions over a median time of 1.6 years. This work affirms the importance of spinal imaging in radiologically isolated syndrome and provides prognostic

information on disease progression.

See p. 686

From editorialists Dennis Bourdette and Vijayshree Yadav: "This study suggests that patients who have RIS and spinal cord T2 hyperintensities may be at high risk of developing MS while those without spinal cord abnormalities may have a very low risk."

See p. 680

Antiretroviral therapy CNS penetration and HIV-1-associated CNS disease

This study examined factors associated with antiretroviral CNS penetration effectiveness (CPE) scores including CNS disease incidence and survival. Significant differences in demographics and clinical parameters existed between CPE score strata. Clinical status at commencement of cART influences antiretroviral selection and should be considered when utilizing CPE scores for retrospective analyses.

See p. 693

Spectrum of paraneoplastic disease associated with lymphoma

The authors defined the frequency, clinical, and immunologic characteristics of 53 lymphoma patients with paraneoplastic neurologic syndromes. Cerebellar degeneration and peripheral neuropathies, prevalently demyelinating polyradiculopathies, represented the main paraneoplastic disorders in these patients.

See p. 705

NB: Did you check out your trial issue of *Neurology: Clinical Practice*, which accompanied your February 15 issue of the journal? If not, please take a few minutes to look it over and provide feedback. The Green Journal is celebrating an important anniversary in 2011—it is 60 years old.

Rates, predictors, and consequences of remission from chronic migraine to episodic migraine

This study assessed rates, predictors, and consequences of remission in 383 patients with chronic migraine remission. The clinical practice implications are important to consider even though remission rates varied. However, the benefit of remission goes beyond symptom reduction and may translate to marked decreases in headache-related disability.

See p. 711; Editorial, p. 682

Language skills of school-aged children prenatally exposed to antiepileptic drugs

The risk to core language abilities associated with fetal antiepileptic drug exposure was assessed in 102 children. A dose-dependent relationship between sodium valproate and language deficits occurred when controlling for maternal factors. The risk of poor cognitive outcome may not be limited to first-trimester exposure.

See p. 719

Increased risk of stroke after discontinuation of acetylsalicylic acid: A UK primary care study

This study used a primary care database to evaluate the effect of treatment discontinuation in almost 40,000 users of low-dose acetylsalicylic acid. Discontinuation of low-dose acetylsalicylic acid was associated with a 40% increase in the risk of ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack compared with continuation of therapy.

See p. 740

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Screening for fitness to drive after stroke: A systematic review and meta-analysis

This review identified 3 clinical tests—Compass, Road Sign Recognition, and Trail Making B—that correctly identified unsafe stroke drivers with an accuracy of 80% or more.

See p. 747

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