In Focus

Spotlight on the October 4 Issue

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Presence of baseline prehypertension and risk of incident stroke: A meta-analysis

Twelve studies with 518,520 participants were included if they reported multivariate-adjusted relative risks and corresponding 95% confidence intervals of stroke with respect to baseline prehypertension. Prehypertension was associated with higher risk of incident stroke and largely driven by higher values within the prehypertensive range, especially in nonelderly persons.

See p. 1330; Editorial, p. 1322

Does therapeutic hypothermia affect time to awakening in cardiac arrest survivors?

Prognosis after cardiac arrest is based on examination at 72 hours, but it is debated whether this is affected by therapeutic hypothermia. In this study of 227 patients, there was no delay in awakening in patients treated with hypothermia, with average time-to-awakening of 2 days for both hypothermic and nonhypothermic groups.

See p. 1346; Editorial, p. 1324

Advanced glycation end product level, diabetes, and accelerated cognitive aging

The authors examined 920 elders with no dementia, 495 with diabetes, and 425 with normal glucose levels. Among older well-functioning adults, those with higher urine pentosidine levels exhibited greater decline in cognitive function over 9 years, independent of demographic factors and comorbidities, including diabetes, although the results were slightly diminished after adjusting for covariates.

See p. 1351

From editorialists Coker and Wagenknecht: "Some hypothesize that the time is near for treatment of those at greatest risk for accumulation of AGEs [advanced glycation end products], either with diet or pharmaceutical intervention, e.g., AGE breakers or AGE inhibitors. At present, large clinical trial data are lacking."

See p. 1326

Mild cognitive impairment in drug-naïve patients with PD is associated with cerebral hypometabolism

This cross-sectional study included 12 newly diagnosed patients with PD and mild cognitive impairment (MCI), 12 without, and 20 healthy controls. MCI in patients with PD was associated with cortical hypometabolism beginning with the earliest stage, independent of therapy or motor disability. Longitudinal studies

are required to establish the relevance of these metabolic alterations in predicting prodromal dementia.

See p. 1357

Preterm birth and risk of epilepsy in Swedish adults

This national cohort study of 630,090 individuals found that preterm birth, including late preterm birth, was strongly associated with epilepsy at ages 25–37 years. Preterm birth and epilepsy are strongly associated and extend later in adulthood than has previously been reported.

See p. 1376

HISTORICAL NEUROLOGY

Sigmund Freud's evolution from neurology to psychiatry: Evidence from his La Salpêtrière library

A good neurologist may sometimes become a good psychiatrist. Freud's personal library is now indexed, and a study of his 1885–1886 La Salpêtrière book shows a remarkable switch from classical neuropathology to hysteria and psychological topics.

See p. 1391

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NEUROLOGIC PRACTICE

A randomized trial of hypothesis-driven vs screening neurologic examination

Medical students performing a hypothesis-driven neurologic examination identified more findings than those using a screening examination. This study suggests that a structured and explicit approach to a focused neurologic examination should be taught alongside the traditional screening approach.

See p. 1395, Editorial 1328

NB: "Mystery Case: Remote cerebellar hemorrhage following resection of a supratentorial tumor" (see p. e82). To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org> and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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