In Focus

Spotlight on the November 8 Issue

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Transient ischemic attacks characterized by RNA profiles in blood

RNA expression in blood of patients with transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) was compared to that of vascular risk-factor control subjects without symptomatic cardiovascular disease. There were 480 probe sets, corresponding

to 449 genes. The 2 gene expression profiles associated with TIAs may help to identify patients at high risk for stroke.

See p. 1718

From editorialists Cucchiara & Nyquist: "In this issue of Neurology®, Zhan et al. report a small study examining gene expression profiles in the blood of patients with acute TIA . . . The results . . . give reason for hope, but also suggest that the path forward will be long, complex, and challenging."

See p. 1716

Hyperacute injury marker (HARM) in primary hemorrhage: A distinct form of CNS barrier disruption

The authors evaluated MRIs from patients admitted with acute intracerebral hemorrhage for the presence of postcontrast sulcal enhancement on FLAIR sequences. Eighty-five percent showed some degree of barrier disruption, with one-half being moderate to severe. Hyperacute injury markers may be useful to test therapies aimed at stabilizing acute blood barrier disruption.

See p. 1725

Vascular risk factors and cognitive impairment in a stroke-free cohort

Cognitive function was measured annually in a sample of adults aged 45 years and older, followed for 4 years. More than 1,900 cases of new cognitive impairment were identified. Vascular risk factors, including presence of left ventricular hypertrophy and high systolic blood pressure, may provide the means of identifying adults at risk for cognitive impairment.

See p. 1729

Neuropathologic features associated with Alzheimer disease diagnosis: Age matters

In an analysis of 2,014 older adults, the relationship between clinical AD diagnosis and neurofibrillary tangles was attenuated among the oldest old compared to the young old. Neuropathologic features did not differentiate as well among people in this age group without a clinical AD diagnosis.

See p. 1737

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Evidence-based guideline update: Treatment of essential tremor: Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology

A literature review using MEDLINE, EMBASE, Science Citation Index, and CINAHL was performed to identify clinical trials in patients with essential tremor published between 2004 and April 2009. Controlled clinical trials of additional medications for tremor using standardized outcome measures are needed.

See p. 1752

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Parkinson disease: The enteric nervous system spills its guts

This review outlines evidence that the enteric nervous system (ENS) is affected by Parkinson disease pathology. Routine colonic biopsies will allow the identification of Lewy pathology in the ENS of patients with Parkinson disease.

See p. 1761

NB: "The seagull cry" in internal carotid artery dissection," see p. 1769. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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