In Focus

Spotlight on the June 5 Issue

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Saccadic abnormalities in frontotemporal dementia

Saccadometry was performed on 22 patients with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and 23 controls, using a portable saccadometer. Saccades were abnormal in FTD, reflecting reduced decision-making speed with abnormalities relating to atrophy of the left frontal eye field.

See p. 1816; Editorial, p. 1806; see also p. 1824

Multicenter validation of a bedside antisaccade task as a measure of executive function

Bedside antisaccade task was compared with oculographic measurements, neuropsychological tests, and informant ratings in 397 individuals with neurologic disorders. The bedside antisaccade is a valid measure of executive function and may be performed without specialized training or equipment.

See p. 1824; Editorial, p. 1806; see also p. 1816

Long-term soy isoflavone supplementation and cognition in women: A randomized, controlled trial ▲

In this trial of parallel groups, 350 healthy postmenopausal women were randomly assigned to consume isoflavone-rich soy protein supplements or placebo supplements. After 2.5 years, there was no change in global cognition in either group. Secondary analyses indicated better visual memory performance in the isoflavone group.

See p. 1841

Mobile stroke unit for diagnosis-based triage of persons with suspected stroke

A mobile stroke unit that delivers imaging, point-of-care-laboratory analysis, and neurologic expertise directly at the emergency site was analyzed for its use in prehospital diagnosis-based triage of suspected stroke patients. The findings demonstrate the feasibility of prehospital diagnostic stroke workup for immediate etiology-specific decision-making regarding the necessary time-sensitive stroke treatment.

See p. 1849; Editorial, p. 1809

Location-weighted CTP analysis predicts early motor improvement in stroke: A preliminary study

The authors determined the recoverable function of stroke patients using a location-weighted atlas-based analysis of admission dynamic perfusion scans, and integrating the imaging and clinical predictors into multivariate models. This analysis methodology can be used for effective triage

of stroke patients for different treatment strategies.

See p. 1853

From editorialists Harel & Tseng: "... does the amount of insight gained by adding perfusion imaging to the traditional bedside evaluation justify the added time and money spent in the acute stroke setting? Until we have a truly specific and verified predictive imaging tool, we continue to rely on the clinical examination."

See p. 1811

Neuro-QOL: Brief measures of health-related quality of life for clinical research in neurology 📖

Using advanced item response theory and qualitative methods, larger item banks were reduced to brief, easily administered and scored scales ("short forms") for clinical or research use. These tools may provide a base for standardizing, measuring, and reporting the concerns of patients with a variety of neurologic conditions.

See p. 1860

Autonomic changes with seizures correlate with postictal EEG suppression 📖

The relationship between autonomic alterations and postictal generalized EEG suppression was assessed in 34 seizures from 11 patients. Increased sympathetic activation and parasympathetic suppression correlated with longer EEG suppression and may be related to sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. Autonomic alterations may help identify patients at risk for life-threatening seizures.

See p. 1868

NB: "Resident & Fellow Ethics: End-of-life decision-making in a pediatric patient with SMA type 2: The influence of the media," see p. e143. To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions, point your browser to www.neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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Neurology 2012;78;1805

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182597a9d

This information is current as of June 4, 2012

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