In Focus

Spotlight on the February 26 Issue

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

Randomized controlled trial of trigeminal nerve stimulation for drug-resistant epilepsy

In 50 patients with drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE), external trigeminal nerve stimulation (eTNS) was associated with an improvement in responder rate at 18 weeks, resulting in improvements in mood. eTNS is a promising new therapy for DRE—it is noninvasive, well tolerated, and may benefit depression, a major comorbidity in epilepsy.

See p. 786

From editorialists Faught & Tatum: "Although we do not know the best electrical pathway to the brain for seizure control, the trigeminal nerve, as the largest cranial nerve, is a sort of superhighway."

See p. 780

Trial of CBT for impulse control behaviors affecting Parkinson patients and their caregivers

This trial compared 12 sessions of a cognitive-behavioral therapy-based intervention in 27 patients to standard medical care (SMC) in 17 controls. CBT plus SMC was more effective than SMC alone in reducing the severity of impulse control behaviors in PD.

See p. 792; Editorial, p. 782

Nonmotor fluctuations in Parkinson disease: Severity and correlation with motor complications

The authors monitored the frequency and severity of nonmotor symptom (NMS) fluctuations in 100 patients with advanced Parkinson disease. Patterns of NMS fluctuations were heterogeneous and complex, but psychic NMS fluctuated more frequently and severely, leading to lower quality of life. Demographics and motor function did not correlate with NMS fluctuations.

See p. 800; Editorial, p. 784

α -Synuclein pathology is related to postoperative delirium in patients undergoing gastrectomy

In this study of 16 patients who experienced postoperative delirium after gastrectomy for stomach cancer and 16 controls, those with postoperative delirium had a higher frequency of

α -synuclein-positive pathologies of both normal and phosphorylated form than those without delirium. Postoperative delirium may represent a preclinical stage of α -synuclein-related cognitive disorders.

See p. 810

Structural and functional brain connectivity in presymptomatic familial frontotemporal dementia

In light of upcoming clinical trials, the development of sensitive biomarkers for early frontotemporal dementia is crucial. Using diffusion tensor imaging and resting-state fMRI, structural and functional connectivity alterations in presymptomatic mutation carriers was established, suggesting that these techniques might be able to serve as sensitive biomarkers in clinical trials.

See p. 814

Prediagnostic body fat and risk of death from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: The EPIC cohort

This study collected information on lifestyle and measured anthropometric characteristics for 518,108 individuals in 10 Western European countries. Seventy-nine men and 143 women with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) died during the follow-up period of 13 years. Prediagnostic body fat is associated with a decreased risk of ALS mortality.

See p. 829

Disparities among Asians and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders with ischemic stroke

This study examined 1,921 patients hospitalized for ischemic stroke, showing that Asians and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have different cardiovascular risk factors compared to whites and to each other. Targeted secondary prevention will be important in reducing disparities among these racial groups.

See p. 839

NB: "Juan Valverde de Hamusco's unauthorized reproduction of a brain dissection by Andreas Vesalius," see p. 852. To check out other Historical Neurology articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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