In Focus

Spotlight on the July 8 Issue

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Antibodies to single glycolipids and glycolipid complexes in Guillain-Barré syndrome subtypes ▲

In acute sera from 199 patients with Guillain-Barré syndrome, immunoglobulin G antibodies to glycolipids and ganglioside complexes were tested against individual antigens from single glycolipids and a neutral glycolipid, and antigens from the combination of 2 different glycolipids. Antibodies to glycolipids were associated with acute motor axonal or conduction block neuropathies but not acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy.

See p. 118

Antiretroviral penetration into the CNS and incidence of AIDS-defining neurologic conditions

Using observational data from individuals with HIV, the authors found that initiating an antiretroviral regimen with high CNS penetration increases the risk of HIV dementia but not other AIDS-defining neurologic conditions. These findings are unexpected, and future studies are needed to examine the effect of CNS penetration on HIV dementia.

See p. 134; Editorial, p. 109

Utility and safety of rituximab in pediatric autoimmune and inflammatory CNS disease 📺 ▲

The authors included data from 144 children treated with rituximab for autoimmune CNS disorders. Although common, infusion reactions were rarely problematic. In contrast, 7% had an infection partially attributed to rituximab, including 3% with serious effects. Rituximab is a useful therapy but should be restricted to only serious autoimmune CNS disorders.

See p. 142

From editorialists Chitnis & Waubant: "The present study may create the momentum to develop an international consensus with standardized practice guidelines that would benefit the prescribing and patient communities."

See p. 111

Variations in EEG discharges predict ADHD severity within individual Smith-Lemli-Opitz patients

In 23 children with Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome who had serial EEG and neuropsychological evaluations, there was a relationship between the presence of epileptiform discharges on EEG and worsening ADHD scores. Clinical

trials based on these results are necessary to establish the efficacy of altering cognitive skills by treating EEG abnormalities.

See p. 151; Comment, p. 157

Small strokes causing severe vertigo: Frequency of false-negative MRIs and nonlacunar mechanisms 📖

From a cohort of 190 acute vertigo patients with stroke risk factors (105 strokes), there were 15 strokes; of these, initial MRI missed 7 out of 15 strokes ≤ 1 cm, while all were correctly identified by bedside eye exam. The HINTS "plus" exam (head impulse, nystagmus, test-of-skew plus hearing) outperforms early MRI with diffusion-weighted imaging, especially in detecting small strokes.

See p. 169

Factors associated with unfavorable outcome in minor ischemic stroke

The authors developed a simple validated model for assessing risk of unfavorable outcomes in patients with minor ischemic stroke from the Japanese Stroke Unit Multicenter Observational (SUMO) Study register. Intra- or extracranial stenotic-occlusive lesions, NIH Stroke Scale items such as leg weakness and extinction/inattention, and their combination may be useful for predicting outcomes.

See p. 174

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

European Database for Myasthenia Gravis: A model for an international disease registry

Registries for rare diseases need to be multinational and prospective, and real-time data retrieval should be performed with innovative business intelligence software. If clinical data on rare neurologic diseases converge into international registries, it will improve overall knowledge and allow quick analyses on disease evolution.

See p. 189

NB: "Pseudo tethered cord: An unusual complication of lumbar puncture," see p. 196. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org.

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