In Focus

Spotlight on the February 10 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles on 3-tesla functional MR language mapping compared to direct cortical stimulation in gliomas and on *GRIN2A*, an aptly named gene for speech dysfunction. Other featured articles focus on gamma frequency oscillations preceding interictal epileptiform spikes in seizure onset zones and on colonic mucosal α -synuclein lacking specificity as a biomarker for Parkinson disease.

ARTICLES

Peripheral nerve ultrasound in pediatric Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A ▲

Nerve ultrasound is a noninvasive and well-tolerated peripheral nerve imaging modality. This study of 29 children with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A (CMT1A) and 29 controls demonstrated a marked increase in nerve cross-sectional area in those with CMT1A, even at a young age. Nerve ultrasound is a promising diagnostic and monitoring tool in pediatric neuropathies.

See p. 569

From editorialists Walker & Ouvrier: "MRI, histopathology, serology, genetic testing, and electrodiagnosis are all valuable tools in the evaluation of children with neuromuscular diseases, but sometimes ultrasound may be an attractive initial modality for screening and directing subsequent tests."

See p. 552

Susceptibility-weighted MRI in mild traumatic brain injury 📖

This study showed that microbleeds resulting from mild traumatic brain injury were associated with neuropsychological deficits on short-term memory function, indicating that the presence of microbleeds may be a severity biomarker for mild traumatic brain injury. Addition of susceptibility-weighted MRI to the MRI protocol for patients with mild traumatic brain injury is recommended.

See p. 580

From editorialists Hähnel & Herweh: "The microstructural in vivo evaluation of mTBI is of growing interest, not only because of the increasing popularity of contact sports, but also for advisory opinions regarding the clinical and forensic consequences of accidental trauma, assaults, and interpersonal violence."

See p. 554

On the origin of painful somatosensory seizures

The authors analyzed ictal recordings from stimulation using intracerebral electrodes exploring the operculo-insular cortex, primary somatosensory cortex, and other pain matrix areas in 5 patients with painful somatosensory seizures. The epileptic origin of painful paroxysms may be demonstrated by intracortical electrodes implanted within the posterior insular cortex, using stereo-EEG techniques.

See p. 594

"Noncognitive" symptoms of early Alzheimer disease: A longitudinal analysis 📺

Survival analyses examined the development of particular symptoms on the Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire, Functional Activities Questionnaire, and Geriatric Depression Scale, comparing the development of individual symptoms for persons who did or did not receive a Clinical Dementia Rating >0 . These findings delineate the noncognitive course of Alzheimer disease dementia in the preclinical stages.

See p. 617

NB: "Neurology in Asia," see p. 623. To check out other Global Perspectives submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the 2 NeuroImages discussing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation as an uncommon cause of corpus callosal microhemorrhage and high-resolution MRI of radiation-induced intracranial vasculopathy. This week's issue also includes a Humanities poem titled "Advice to My Younger Self While Making Evening Rounds."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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