Encephalitis and microscopic testicular tumors

Mathew et al. report five criteria that associate suspected paraneoplastic encephalitis with microscopic tumors of the testis, prompting consideration for orchiectomy: 1) demonstration of Ma2 antibodies with MRI or clinical features compatible with anti-Ma2-encephalitis, 2) progressive neurologic deficits, 3) age <50 years, 4) absence of other tumors, and 5) risk factors for germ-cell tumors.

see page 900

There is an accompanying editorial by Raymond D. Voltz.

see page 887

Risedronate prevents hip fracture in men with PD

Sato et al. conducted a double-blinded randomized trial in 242 elderly men with PD. The patients received risedronate or a placebo. Nine sustained a hip fracture in the placebo group, compared with three in the risedronate group. Relative risk for a hip fracture was 0.33.

see page 911

Quality of life and depression in ALS patients and caregivers

Gauthier et al. assessed quality of life and depression in a series of patients with ALS and caregivers over 9 months. Although patients' disability worsened, their depression and quality of life did not modify, whereas caregivers' depression and perception of burden increased significantly.

see page 923

Childhood radiation-induced moyamoya syndrome

Ullrich et al. evaluated 456 children who were treated with radiation therapy for primary brain tumors. Higher dose of radiation to the circle of Willis and the presence of NF1 were associated with increased risk and more rapid development of moyamoya-type vascular changes.

see page 932

Phenotypic spectrum of α -synuclein multiplications

The findings by Fuchs et al. extend the clinical, genetic, and genealogic research on the Lister family complex (first described by Mjnes in 1949, the cause of this disease in a large Swedish family with dominantly inherited parkinsonism). They identified α -synuclein duplication in one branch which led to late-onset parkinsonism resembling MSA, and a triplication in another branch associated with early onset PD with dementia.

see page 916

Microvascular lesions and cognition in borderline AD

Kvari et al. investigated the synergistic effect of microvascular lesions on borderline AD cases with transitional pathology (Braak III neurofibrillary tangle stage). Cortical microinfarcts and periventricular demyelination predicted cognitive variability and were strongly associated with clinical dementia.

see page 927

Dose-comparison study of glatiramer acetate

Cohen et al. report the first dose-comparison study of glatiramer acetate (Copaxone) in the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS. This preliminary study showed the higher (40 mg) dose to be safe and suggested it may be slightly more effective than the conventional dose in reducing clinical relapses and MRI lesion activity.

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