In Focus

Spotlight on the October 19 Issue

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Homocysteine and holotranscobalamin and the risk of Alzheimer disease: A longitudinal study

This study followed 271 dementia-free subjects aged 65–79 years for 7 years to detect incident Alzheimer disease. The association between serum total homocysteine (tHcy) and holotranscobalamin (holoTC) was assessed with multiple logistic regression after adjusting for several potential confounders, including common vascular risk factors. Serum tHcy and holoTC may be involved in the development of Alzheimer disease.

See p. 1408

From editorialist Sudha Seshadri: "This article is an important initial step relating plasma holoTC to risk of incident dementia and AD; the community-based sample, prospective design, simultaneous assessment of tHcy and holoTC, and the absence of dietary folate fortification in this sample are strengths that clarify some of the complexity of the B₁₂-folate-tHcy story."

See p. 1402

Physical activity predicts gray matter volume in late adulthood: The Cardiovascular Health Study

Using MRI on 299 older adults, the authors examined the association between gray matter volume, physical activity, and cognitive impairment. Greater amounts of walking were associated with increased gray matter volume, an effect that may reduce the risk for dementia.

See p. 1415

IFN β -1b may severely exacerbate Japanese optic-spinal MS in neuromyelitis optica spectrum

The medical records of 56 patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis were reviewed. The 7 patients with clinical features of neuromyelitis optica spectrum and anti-aquaporin antibodies experienced severe exacerbation after the initiation of IFN β -1b therapy. IFN β -1b may trigger severe exacerbation in patients with disease in the neuromyelitis optica spectrum.

See p. 1423; Editorial, p. 1404

Premorbid cognitive leisure independently contributes to cognitive reserve in multiple sclerosis

Cognitive status in 36 patients with MS with brain atrophy was estimated with a composite score of processing speed and memory. Patients with multiple sclerosis who engaged in more cognitive leisure activities were able to withstand more severe brain atrophy at a given cognitive status.

See p. 1428

Pain in Guillain-Barré syndrome: A long-term follow-up study

In 156 patients with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), 36% reported pain in the 2 weeks preceding weakness while 66% reported pain in the first 3 weeks after inclusion and 38% after 1 year. Pain is a common and often severe symptom in the spectrum of GBS.

See p. 1439; Editorial, p. 1406

SCN2A mutations associated with neonatal epilepsy, late-onset episodic ataxia, myoclonus, and pain

The authors identified a patient with a neonatal-onset complex episodic neurologic phenotype with a novel SCN2A missense mutation, which resulted in a pronounced gain of function in the brain sodium channel Na_v1.2. Developmentally increased expression of this gene in cerebellum may account for the later onset of episodic ataxia.

See p. 1454

NB: "Histamine in the CNS. . ." and other Clinical Implications of Neuroscience Research.

see p.1472

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