In Focus

Spotlight on the July 12 Issue

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Postural imbalance and falls in PSP correlate with functional pathology of the thalamus

The authors determined how imbalance and falls related to regional cerebral glucose metabolism and functional activation of the cerebral postural network in 16 patients with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). Imbalance and falls in PSP were closely associated with thalamic dysfunction and most evident when assessed during modified sensory input.

See p. 101; Editorial, p. 92

Preferential D2 or preferential D3 dopamine agonists in restless legs syndrome

In this single-blind and polysomnographic investigation, a D3-preferring agonist (pramipexole) was superior to a D2-preferring agonist (bromocriptine) in 45 patients with restless legs syndrome (RLS). The effects of selective dopamine agonists can spur development of new compounds for RLS and may increase understanding of its pathogenesis.

See p. 110

Quantitative EEG as a predictive biomarker for Parkinson disease dementia

The authors evaluated quantitative EEG (QEEG) measures as predictive biomarkers for the development of dementia in patients with Parkinson disease (PD). Lower background rhythm frequency showed the highest odds ratio for dementia risk, extending predictive power beyond neuropsychological testing. QEEG holds promise for clinical trial design and studying the biology of cognitive decline in PD.

See p. 118

From editorialist Samuel Frank: "We need to find a biomarker that can diagnose and track PD to move beyond the simple physical examination features that we have been using since the days of James Parkinson."

See p. 94

Causes of death among people with convulsive epilepsy in rural West China: A prospective study

Understanding causes of death in epilepsy may aid prevention of premature mortality. This study prospectively estimated mortality and ascertained causes of death in convulsive epilepsy in rural China. Accidental death, especially drowning, and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy were the main causes; the risk of death was 5 times that of the general population.

See p. 132; Editorial, p. 96

Prevalence, sensitivity, and specificity of chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in MS

The authors determined prevalence of chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI) in 289 patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), 21 with clinically isolated syndrome, 26 with other neurologic diseases, and 163 healthy controls, using specific proposed Doppler criteria. An increased prevalence of CCSVI in patients with MS was detected, but with only modest sensitivity and specificity, suggesting against a causative role of CCSVI in MS.

See p. 138; Editorial, p. 98

Breastfeeding is not related to postpartum relapses in multiple sclerosis

The influence of breastfeeding on the course of multiple sclerosis (MS) has been debated. This study, on 423 pregnancies in women with MS, showed that the time-dependent profile of the relapse rate before, during, and after pregnancy did not differ between patients who breastfed their babies and patients who did not.

See p. 145

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Encephalitis and antibodies to synaptic and neuronal cell surface proteins

This review discusses the diagnosis and management of several disorders that form a new category of autoimmune encephalitis mediated by antibodies

against cell surface or synaptic proteins. Although these disorders are potentially lethal and are not rare, they often respond to immunotherapy.

See p. 179

NB: This issue includes a Resident & Fellow Section Teaching Neurolmage, "Postictal subconjunctival hemorrhages and skin petechiae," that appears in print (p. 194). To check out other Resident & Fellow features, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org> and click on the link to the Resident and Fellow Section.

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