In Focus

Spotlight on the May 15 Issue

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Altered microstructural connectivity in juvenile myoclonic epilepsy: The missing link

The authors acquired fMRI and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in a cohort of 30 patients with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy and in 28 controls. The novel methodology of DTI-based region

parcellation puts recently reported focal “structural” abnormalities in juvenile myoclonic epilepsy into context.

See p. 1555

Development of a Suspicion Index to aid diagnosis of Niemann-Pick disease type C

Three patient types were selected from 5 centers in Europe and 2 in Australia: classical or variant filipin staining Niemann-Pick disease type C (NP-C cases), and NP-C noncases or controls with one characteristic symptom of NP-C. The Suspicion Index may be used as a screening tool to identify patients who warrant further investigation for NP-C.

See p. 1560; Editorial, p. 1546

CSF biomarkers for Alzheimer disease correlate with cortical brain biopsy findings

In 182 patients with presumed normal pressure hydrocephalus, A β plaques and tau were correlated with the ventricular and lumbar CSF A β 42, total tau, and phosphorylated-tau levels measured by ELISA. Amyloid plaques and hyperphosphorylated tau in the cortical brain biopsies were associated with low CSF A β 42 and high CSF tau and p-tau levels.

See p. 1568

Short-term clinical outcomes for stages of NIA-AA preclinical Alzheimer disease

The authors, using NIA-AA criteria for preclinical Alzheimer disease, showed that the risk in normal subjects for the subsequent development of cognitive impairment followed the order predicted by the 3 stages of the criteria. The highest risk was in those with low cognitive performance, imaging findings of neurodegeneration, and β -amyloidosis.

See p. 1576

Effect of insurance status on postacute care among working age stroke survivors

This study of ischemic stroke survivors under age 65 showed that of 33,917 working age stroke survivors, 19.3% were uninsured, 19.8% were Medicaid enrollees, and 22.8% were discharged to institutional postacute care. Stroke survivors with Medicaid were more likely and the uninsured less likely to use institutional postacute care than the privately insured.

See p. 1590

Decreased motor cortex γ -aminobutyric acid in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

Ten patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and 9 controls underwent 3T proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy centered on the motor cortex and the subcortical white matter. Compared with controls, patients with ALS had lower levels of GABA in the left motor cortex, suggesting that GABAergic transmission alterations may play a role in ALS pathophysiology.

See p. 1596

From editorialists Kiernan & Petri: “...it is perhaps now time to devise novel therapeutic approaches, aiming to restore the inhibitory balance and thereby promote neuronal repair in ALS.”

See p. 1544

Myasthenia gravis and neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder: A multicenter study of 16 patients

The authors analyzed clinical details and antibody results of 16 patients with acetylcholine receptor-mediated myasthenia gravis (MG) and aquaporin-4 antibody-mediated neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD). Although both conditions are rare, the association of MG and NMOSD occurred more frequently, with MG following a benign course.

See p. 1601

NB: “Mitochondrial dynamics: General concepts and clinical implications,” see p. 1612. To check out other Clinical Implications of Neuroscience Research, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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