In Focus

Spotlight on the August 21 Issue

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MRI-leukoaraiosis thresholds and the phenotypic expression of dementia

Eighty-three individuals with insidious onset/progressive dementia, clinically diagnosed with Alzheimer disease or small vessel vascular dementia, completed several neuropsychological measures. These data underscore the need to better understand the threshold at which leukoaraiosis affects and alters the phenotypic expression in insidious onset dementia syndromes. Two other papers this week also discuss the topic of white matter changes and cognitive impairment.

See p. 734, see also pp. 741 and 748

From editorialists Carmichael & Salloway: "Should early white matter changes factor into such models of incipient dementia? Three articles in this issue of Neurology® strengthen the argument that they should."

See p. 726

Obesity phenotypes in midlife and cognition in early old age: The Whitehall II cohort study

Cognitive function was analyzed in 6,401 adults using a battery of tests, 3 times over 10 years, to study the effects of obesity and metabolic health on cognitive decline. The fastest cognitive decline was observed in those with both obesity and metabolic abnormalities.

See p. 755

Feasibility of antiepileptic drug withdrawal following extratemporal resective epilepsy surgery

In 106 patients undergoing resective surgery for extratemporal focal epilepsies, with 94 in whom antiepileptic drug (AED) withdrawal was attempted, seizures recurred in 44; of those 44, 14 did not become seizure-free. The risk of seizure recurrence on attempted AED withdrawal correlated with a longer duration of epilepsy and abnormal postoperative electroencephalogram.

See p. 770; Editorial, p. 728

Tafamidis for transthyretin familial amyloid polyneuropathy: A randomized, controlled trial

This study showed that 20 mg tafamidis QD did not produce a significant decrease in clinical progression in patients with transthyretin familial amyloid polyneuropathy. Secondary outcomes,

however, demonstrated a delay in peripheral neurologic impairment with tafamidis, which was well tolerated over 18 months.

See p. 785; Editorial, p. 730

Multifocal visual evoked potentials are influenced by variable contrast stimulation in MS

This study investigated 11 controls and 40 patients with MS, 21 with a history of acute optic neuritis. In MS eyes with thinning of the retinal nerve fiber layer thickness, there was a decline in low-

contrast letter acuity and cortical multifocal visual evoked potential responses to variable contrast pattern-reversal stimulation.

See p. 797; Editorial, p. 732

Long-term learning of stroke knowledge among children in a high-risk community

One hundred four fifth- and sixth-grade children were enrolled into a single course of Hip Hop Stroke—three 1-hour classroom sessions, delivered over 3 consecutive days. Three hours of Hip Hop Stroke improved knowledge of stroke symptoms and behavioral intent to call 911.

See p. 802

NB: "Adult neurology training during child neurology residency" and "Horizons: Restoring medical professionalism," see p. 815 & p. 820. To check out other Contemporary Issues in Neurologic Practice, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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