In Focus

Spotlight on the September 3 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*®

L-Selectin is a possible biomarker for individual PML risk in natalizumab-treated MS patients

The authors used L-selectin to stratify the PML risk of individual MS patients undergoing natalizumab treatment. Absence of L-selectin on CD4⁺ T cells was sensitive (0% false-negatives) and specific (<3% of potential false-positives) in predicting individual PML risk. Biyearly checks of L-selectin

levels may help in reducing the rate of natalizumab-related PML.

See p. 865; Editorial, p. 858

Immune competence after alemtuzumab treatment of multiple sclerosis ▲

The authors assessed immunocompetence in 24 patients after alemtuzumab by measuring antibody responses to 3 vaccines: diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis; *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and meningococcal group C conjugate; and pneumococcal polysaccharide. Patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis appear immunocompetent after treatment with alemtuzumab.

See p. 872

Antihypertensive medication use and risk of cognitive impairment: The Honolulu-Asia Aging Study

The authors examined 2,197 participants with hypertension and without dementia or cognitive impairment at baseline, who provided information on medication use. Cognitive function was assessed at 7 standardized examinations. β -Blocker use was associated with a lower risk of developing cognitive impairment in elderly Japanese American men.

See p. 888; Editorial, p. 860; see also p. 896

Antihypertensive drugs decrease risk of Alzheimer disease: Ginkgo Evaluation of Memory Study

Antihypertensive medications may influence dementia risk. In this 6-year study of 1,928 cognitively normal elderly adults, there was 50% risk reduction of developing Alzheimer dementia among users of diuretics, angiotensin-1 receptor blockers, or angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors. In 320 participants with mild cognitive impairment, there was 60% risk reduction among diuretic users.

See p. 896; Editorial, p. 860; see also p. 888

Neurovascular coupling, cerebral white matter integrity, and response to cocoa in older people 📖

Sixty people were recruited for this trial of neurovascular coupling and cognition in response to cocoa consumption. Individuals with impaired neurovascular coupling had lower cognitive performance and greater positive response to 30 days of cocoa consumption. Neurovascular coupling may be used to assess individuals at risk of cognitive impairment in the preclinical state.

See p. 904

From editorialists Rosenberg & Tan: "...regular cocoa consumption may be a strategy to minimize (perhaps even reverse) cerebral vascular pathology in neurodegenerative disorders, regardless of its flavanol content."

See p. 863

Risk of incident stroke in patients with Alzheimer disease or vascular dementia

The authors followed 6,443 cases with Alzheimer disease (AD) and 2,302 with vascular dementia (VD), identifying 281 with ischemic stroke and 379 with TIA. Patients with VD, but not AD, had a higher risk of developing ischemic stroke. In patients with AD, use of atypical antipsychotic drugs was associated with increased risk of TIA.

See p. 910

MRI-identified pathology in adults with new-onset seizures 📖

MRI scans were acquired in 764 patients; potentially epileptogenic lesions were detected in 177, most often in those who had focal seizures. MRI has a high diagnostic yield in patients presenting with a new-onset seizure disorder that is complementary to that of EEG, and may influence the immediate and longer-term therapeutic planning.

See p. 920

RESIDENT & FELLOW SECTION

Clinical Reasoning: A 40-year-old man with CIDP-like illness resistant to treatment

POEMS syndrome may be confused with CIDP (both cause demyelinating neuropathies). The authors discuss how poor response to IVIg immunotherapy and the presence of a monoclonal protein should point to the correct diagnosis.

See p. e65

NB: "Multiple intraventricular neurocysticerci," see p. 936. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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