In Focus

Spotlight on the April 21 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles on the presence of specific “epigenetic” etiology associated with increased risk of developing comorbid dysexecutive and social anxiety symptoms in premutation women carrying the *FMR1* gene and on fingolimod treatment and CSF neurofilament light chain levels in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. Another featured article focuses on the factors influencing sweat gland innervation in diabetes.

ARTICLES

C9orf72 promoter hypermethylation is neuroprotective: Neuroimaging and neuropathologic evidence

The authors observed converging neuroimaging, neuropathologic, and neuropsychological evidence suggesting that *C9orf72* promoter methylation has neuroprotective properties and is associated with improved prognosis in patients with frontotemporal dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Methylation level may provide a neuroprotective target for drug discovery.

See p. 1622

From editorialists Day & Roberson: “Such lack of genetic specificity demonstrates a key pitfall of current epigenetically targeted treatments, but a rapidly emerging set of epigenetic engineering techniques is beginning to allow the necessary genetic specificity, at least in experimental settings.”

See p. 1616

Neuronal Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase is an autoantibody target in paraneoplastic neurologic syndrome

The study describes a severe, multifaceted neurologic disorder due to a fatal colon adenocarcinoma via autoantibodies against neuronal ATPase. Although this particular autoreactivity is likely to be rare, these findings underline the importance of considering early paraneoplastic etiology and screening for autoantibodies in such clinical settings.

See p. 1673

Acute infarcts cause focal thinning in remote cortex via degeneration of connecting fiber tracts

Remote effects after ischemic stroke are considered major determinants of stroke outcome. Using fiber tracking and longitudinal measurements of cortical thickness, this study demonstrates the loss of both white and gray matter in brain regions connected to infarcts, suggesting that secondary neurodegeneration is a key mechanism in remote changes after ischemic stroke.

See p. 1685

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Evidence-based guideline: Management of an unprovoked first seizure in adults: Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Epilepsy Society

This guideline details the risks for seizure recurrence after a first seizure. Although immediate antiepileptic drug (AED) treatment reduces the risk over the subsequent 2 years, it does not improve the long-term prognosis for remaining seizure-free. AED treatment recommendations should weigh individualized seizure recurrence risks against the adverse effects of AEDs.

See p. 1705

NB: “Evidence-based guideline: Management of an unprovoked first seizure in adults: Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Epilepsy Society,” see p. 1705. To check out other AAN Special Articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing rheumatoid-associated meningitis and vasculopathy, and unilateral abducens nerve palsy in a child with rapidly increasing head circumference.

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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