In Focus

Spotlight on the January 13 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features several articles on migraines, with one specifically focused on primary headache quality measures. Other featured articles explore the topics of complex heterogeneity of schwannomatosis, epilepsy surgery, and Lesch-Nyhan disease.

ARTICLES

Recalled maltreatment, migraine, and tension-type headache: Results of the AMPP Study

Adverse childhood experiences are recognized risk factors for adult illness. Cross-sectional analysis of a US sample revealed a “dose”-dependent relationship between emotional and sexual maltreatment and migraine, particularly in those with depression and anxiety. Adverse childhood experiences may give rise to brain changes that predispose to migraine.

See p. 132; Comment, p. 138

Diagnostic utility of aquaporin-4 in the analysis of active demyelinating lesions

Immunohistochemical analysis emphasizes the importance of recognizing unusual findings (dystrophic astrocytes, myelin vacuolation, granulocytes, vascular hyalinization) in biopsies of active demyelinating disease. These results should prompt the neuropathologist to perform immunohistochemistry for aquaporin-4 and recommend aquaporin-4-IgG serologic testing to exclude a diagnosis of neuromyelitis optica or neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder.

See p. 148

From editorialists Fujihara & Misu: “Early differentiation of NMOSD from MS is critically important because some disease-modifying drugs for MS (interferon- β , natalizumab, and fingolimod) can aggravate NMOSD.”

See p. 110

Thalamo-frontal connectivity mediates top-down cognitive functions in disorders of consciousness

Using neuroimaging, the authors detected signs of consciousness in 30% of patients considered to be in a vegetative state based on clinical tests. In addition, intact thalamo-frontal connectivity was critical to sustain willful (brain) responses. Clinical applicability of neuroimaging approaches requires solving the specificity problem, since

50% of minimally conscious patients showed measured changes.

See p. 167

From editorialists Goldman & Schiff: “When rigorous selection procedures are not adopted, it is hazardous to generalize the conclusions to the whole DOC population.... In particular, prevalence of residual consciousness in unresponsive patients remains to be estimated in well-designed studies.”

See p. 114

Olfactory deficits predict cognitive decline and Alzheimer dementia in an urban community

In 1,037 elderly people without dementia, lower odor identification scores were associated with cognitive decline in cognitively intact individuals and with the transition to dementia and Alzheimer disease in cognitively impaired individuals after controlling for demographic, cognitive, and functional covariates. Odor identification testing may improve early identification for risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer disease.

See p. 182

NB: “Influence of a publication rotation in a neurology residency program in a developing country,” see p. 197. To check out other Global Perspectives submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, also check out the 2 Clinical/Scientific Notes discussing language lateralization in semantic variant PPA and autosomal dominant Alzheimer disease presenilin 1 E280A mutation, along with the Humanities article titled “What is the value of a neurologist?”

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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