In Focus

Spotlight on the June 16 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article investigating the relationship between CSF proteins and resting-state functional connectivity in Parkinson disease. Two other articles focus on intracranial hypotension and hypertension: one discusses the importance of recognizing the false localizing sign of cervico-thoracic CSF leak in spontaneous intracranial hypotension and another discusses patient quality of life in idiopathic intracranial hypertension.

ARTICLES

Dynamics of brain iron levels in multiple sclerosis: A longitudinal 3T MRI study

The authors followed 144 patients clinically and with 3T MRI over a median period of 2.9 years. Iron concentration was determined by R2*

relaxometry at baseline and last follow-up. While iron accumulation appears to be an early phenomenon, it was not associated with disease activity or changes in disability.

See p. 2396

From editorialists Rovira, Wiggermann, & Rauscher:
"Nevertheless, R2* mapping as a surrogate marker of DGM iron content may become a valuable addition to the imaging portfolio for the characterization of tissue damage and repair, and for the assessment of the neurodegenerative component in MS."

See p. 2388

Encephalitis and AMPA receptor antibodies: Novel findings in a case series of 22 patients

The authors performed a retrospective clinical and immunologic analysis of 22 new patients with anti-AMPA receptor encephalitis; 64% had a tumor and 71% had complete or partial improvement. Patients with new-onset limbic encephalitis should be evaluated for AMPA receptor antibodies; if positive, a tumor search should be started along with immunotherapy.

See p. 2403

From editorialists Panzer & Dale: "The current study adds to our understanding of the spectrum of anti-AMPA encephalitis, thereby improving our understanding of why autoimmunity occurs, and demonstrating that collaborative efforts are essential to improve understanding of these rare diseases."

See p. 2390

Depression and subsequent risk of Parkinson disease: A nationwide cohort study

The time-dependent effect, dose-response pattern for recurrent depression, and lack of evidence for coaggregation indicate a direct association between depression and subsequent Parkinson disease. Given that the association continued for more than 2 decades, depression may be a very early prodromal symptom of Parkinson disease, or a causal risk factor.

See p. 2422

Screening with MRI for Accurate and Rapid Stroke Treatment: SMART

Few hospitals around the world routinely use MRI screening for acute stroke because of treatment delay concerns. This study reports that screening with multimodal MRI before IV tissue plasminogen activator led to consistent door-to-needle times of less than 60 minutes. By applying these SMART processes, other hospitals could achieve similar results.

See p. 2438; Editorial, p. 2394

NB: "Immunotherapy of oneiric stupor in Morvan syndrome: Efficacy documented by actigraphy," see p. 2457. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing adult hemimegalencephaly associated with multiple cerebral aneurysms, and cerebral proliferative angiopathy. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Section Teaching NeuroImage titled "Cat-scratch optic neuropathy without neuroretinitis."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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