In Focus

Spotlight on the March 8 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article on incontinence and gait disturbance after intraventricular extension of intracerebral hemorrhage and another on the clinical and radiologic features of the pseudotumoral presentation of cerebral amyloid angiopathy-related inflammation. A review article focuses on TIAs as predictors of high risk for subsequent strokes.

From editorialists Fletcher & Majersik: "...these are perhaps the data we have been missing: rather than attempting to provide piecemeal evidence, this work shows that enacting full-spectrum stroke systems improves stroke mortality. The authors have highlighted an opportunity that may have profound implications for reducing the global burden of stroke: implementation of centralized systems of stroke care with high-level government oversight."

See p. 886

ARTICLES

Results from a phase 1 study of nusinersen (ISIS-SMN_{Rx}) in children with spinal muscular atrophy

Nusinersen, an antisense oligonucleotide previously known as ISIS-SMN_{Rx}, was delivered by intrathecal injection to medically stable patients with type 2 or type 3 spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). This study provides evidence that in children with SMA, intrathecal nusinersen was not associated with safety or tolerability concerns and supports continued development of nusinersen for treatment of SMA.

See p. 890

From editorialists Nevo & Wang: "In the pediatric neuromuscular field, Duchenne muscular dystrophy leads the way with various therapeutic options investigated including read-through agents for children with nonsense point mutations, exon skipping with ASO for specific deletions, gene therapy, utrophin upregulation, and anti-inflammatory and antifibrotic agents."

See p. 884

Integrated systems of stroke care and reduction in 30-day mortality: A retrospective analysis

In an attempt to increase integrated organized stroke care, the Canadian Stroke Strategy successfully implemented population-wide stroke care in 5 provinces. Using a retrospective approach, the authors examined the mortality benefit of this strategy and demonstrated that implementation of integrated systems of stroke care reduced stroke mortality.

See p. 898

Antiepileptic use for epilepsy and nonepilepsy disorders: A population-based study (1998-2013)

There has been a marked increase in antiepileptic drug use over the last 15 years. The quarterly prevalence of antiepileptic drug use has increased by 210% in those without epilepsy and by 3% in patients with epilepsy. Further investigation on the long-term use and appropriateness of these agents for off-label indications is warranted.

See p. 939

Antibiotic-associated encephalopathy

Antibiotics are an underrecognized cause of encephalopathy. The authors searched for published cases of antibiotic encephalopathy and proposed 3 clinical syndromes associated with different antibiotics. Their findings showed that antibiotics may affect cognition through a variety of mechanisms, and recognizing these differences may aid in earlier discontinuation of causative medications.

See p. 963

NB: "STXBP1 encephalopathy: A neurodevelopmental disorder including epilepsy," p. 954. To check out other Views & Reviews, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Notes discussing acute retinal necrosis in multiple sclerosis and a new type of cervical vertigo. This week also includes a Humanities poem titled "Seahorses."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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