Cholesterol and hemorrhagic risk after stroke thrombolysis

Bang et al. evaluated the influence of admission cholesterol and prestroke statin use on symptomatic hemorrhagic transformation of brain infarction following recanalization treatment. They found that lower admission low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level with or without statin use was independently associated with greater hemorrhagic risk.

see page 737

There is an accompanying editorial by Larry B. Goldstein.

see page 719

DNA-microarray analysis in unexplained mental retardation

Engels et al. studied 60 patients with mental retardation by genome-wide array-based comparative genomic hybridization. They identified novel microimbalances as the probable cause of mental retardation in 10% of patients with unclear etiology. Precise breakpoint analyses allowed the identification of deleted genes.

see page 743

There is an accompanying editorial by Speicher and Higgins.

see page 721

Cortical biochemistry in MCI and AD

To understand the biochemistry of incipient AD, Forman et al. measured postmortem brains in subjects with no cognitive impairment, MCI, or AD. Insoluble A β and tissue isoprostane levels correlated with the burden of AD pathology but not clinical diagnosis proximate to death.

see page 757

Cigarette smoking and risk of PD

Thacker et al. studied smoking and risk of PD in a cohort of over 140,000 men and women from 1992 to 2001. Participants with more years smoked, more cigarettes per day, older age at quitting smoking, and fewer years since quitting smoking had lower PD risk.

see page 764

Changes in serum cholesterol and dementia

In a cohort of 1,449 subjects studied over 21 years, Solomon et al. found that elevated midlife cholesterol was a dementia risk factor. Decreasing cholesterol after midlife was also associated with dementia risk, suggesting that cholesterol, possibly influenced by ongoing pathology, may become a dementia risk marker.

see page 751

Epidural steroid injections for radicular lumbosacral pain

Armon et al., working with the Technology and Therapeutics Assessment Subcommittee of the AAN, concluded that epidural steroid injections may have a limited role in providing short-term pain relief for radicular lumbosacral pain. The average extent of relief, over placebo, is small. Available data do not permit expressing efficacy in terms of numbers needed to treat to achieve a meaningful benefit.

see page 723

Reflex toothbrushing epilepsy with identical MRI lesions

D'Souza et al. report three patients with reflex toothbrushing-induced epilepsy and structural abnormalities in the primary somatosensory cortex in close proximity to hand and speech motor areas. Their observations suggest that subset of epilepsy may involve a discrete lesion and seizure induction by simple mechanisms.

see page 769

Distal arthrogryposis caused by contractile protein defect

Tajsharghi et al. describe a woman and her mother with distal arthrogryposis and muscle weakness associated with a mutation in beta-tropomyosin, a sarcomeric protein essential for actin-myosin interaction. Their findings support the concept that sarcomeric protein dysfunction can cause distal arthrogryposis.

see page 772

Diffusion tensor imaging in trigeminal neuralgia

In a diffusion tensor imaging study, Herweh et al. found reduced anisotropy values accompanying atrophy in the affected nerve of patients with trigeminal neuralgia. In the postoperative imaging examination of a patient treated with microvascular decompression these changes were shown to be reversible.

see page 776

Age at onset and the progressive phase of MS

Using the Salpêtrière MS database (957 patients), Stankoff et al. emphasize that occurrence of the progressive phase of primary or secondary progressive MS is strongly linked with age at clinical onset.

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