



In Focus

Spotlight on the November 2 Issue

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Coffee and acute ischemic stroke onset: The Stroke Onset Study



This study of 390 patients who experienced an acute ischemic stroke showed that the relative risk of stroke within 1 hour after consuming 8 ounces or one cup of caffeinated coffee was 2.0, compared with nonuse. These results indicate that caffeinated coffee, but not caffeinated tea or cola, was associated with increased risk of ischemic stroke among infrequent drinkers.

See p. 1583

From editorialists Giancarlo Logroscino and Tobias Kurth: "What should be concluded from the results of the study by Mostofsky and colleagues? Should doctors disapprove, favor, or ignore their patients' caffeine intake when seeking stroke prevention?"

See p. 1576

Association between weekend hospital presentation and stroke fatality



The authors compared in-hospital stroke care and 7-day stroke case fatality rates among patients seen on weekends and weekdays, with adjustment for stroke severity and other baseline factors. Stroke fatality was higher with weekend admissions compared to weekdays.

See p. 1589

Normal CSF ferritin levels in MS suggest against etiologic role of chronic venous insufficiency



Neuroimmunologic techniques were used to test the hypothesis that toxic iron deposition in the brain caused by chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI) may cause disability progression by quantifying ferritin, a protein known to increase following iron deposition. These data do not support an etiologic role for CCSVI-related parenchymal iron deposition in MS.

See p. 1617

From editorialists Susan J. van Rensburg and Ronald van Toorn: "Further studies are indicated to explore the potentially important clinical consequences of low iron levels in some patients with MS."

See p. 1581

Contralateral MRI abnormalities affect seizure and cognitive outcome after hemispherectomy



This retrospective consecutive cohort study followed 43 children who underwent functional hemispherectomy between 1994 and 2008. Unambiguous contralateral MRI abnormalities were associated with seizure recurrence, severe mental delay, and lack of cognitive improvement and could be considered a relative contraindication for hemispherectomy.

See p. 1623; Editorial, p. 1578

Corpus callosum involvement is a consistent feature of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis



This observational study consisted of diffusion tensor imaging in 24 heterogeneous patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and well-matched healthy controls. The results demonstrated a consistent signature

involving the corpus callosum, likely reflecting loss of interhemispheric motor cortical connectivity and associated gray matter losses, thus confirming an inherent cerebral neurodegenerative process.

See p. 1645

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Common pathogenic pathways in melanoma and Parkinson disease

Recent genetic and functional data suggest that the causal link between melanoma and Parkinson disease observed in clinical reports may center on tyrosine metabolism, further highlighting the existence of common pathogenic pathways between both disorders.

See p. 1653

NB: Read a good book lately? See the review of the book titled "Uncommon Causes of Stroke." see p. 1661

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