



In Focus

Spotlight on the November 16 Issue

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Detection of elevated levels of α -synuclein oligomers in CSF from patients with Parkinson disease



The authors, using novel immunoassays, investigated CSF α -synuclein oligomer levels in patients with Parkinson disease (PD) and controls. Since the levels of α -synuclein oligomers in CSF were higher in patients with PD compared to controls, these levels may be useful biomarkers for early detection and diagnosis of PD.

See p. 1766; Editorial, p. 1760

Hallucinations and sleep disorders in PD: Ten-year prospective longitudinal study



This study followed 89 patients with Parkinson disease (PD) who had either normal sleep without hallucinations, sleep fragmentation only, vivid dreams/nightmares, hallucinations with insight, or hallucinations without insight. The increasing prevalence and progressive severity of hallucinations followed a different pattern of progression from sleep disorders; though sleep aberrations were common in those with hallucinations, sleep problems did not predict hallucinations in PD.

See p. 1773; Editorial, p. 1762

Modafinil ameliorates excessive daytime sleepiness after traumatic brain injury



This trial examined the effect of daily modafinil on posttraumatic excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) and fatigue in 20 TBI patients with fatigue or EDS or both. Modafinil was effective and well-tolerated in the treatment of posttraumatic EDS but not in fatigue.

See p. 1780

From editorialist Richard M. Dasheiff: "Modafinil does not appear to be the next silver bullet for sleepiness and fatigue, nor has TBI shown some unique constellation of pathology and response to act as a model disorder. We depend on good clinical trials like the one published by Kaiser et al. to provide us with the metrics of our progress. If we do not fatigue from the effort, we will eventually find the answer."

See p. 1764

NB: "Video NeuroImages: Toothbrushing EEG artifact recorded from chronically implanted subdural electrodes" see p. 1850 and "Resident & Fellow Right Brain: We were all once 'fixed and dilated'" see p. 1851. To check out other NeuroImages and Resident & Fellow submissions, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>.

Pregnancy and fetal outcomes after interferon- β exposure in multiple sclerosis

The study tracked 423 pregnancies in women with MS, with or without exposure to IFN β therapy during pregnancy. Due to the relative safety of exposure times of up to 4 weeks, it may be best to continue IFN β but strictly monitor for conception, and discontinue therapy once the pregnancy test is positive.

See p. 1794

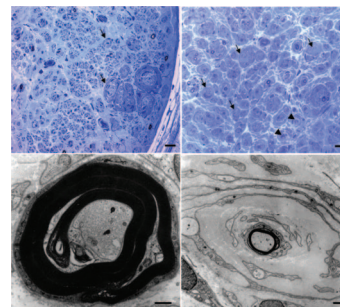
Efficacy and safety of adjunctive ezogabine (retigabine) in refractory partial epilepsy



This randomized, dose-ranging, placebo-controlled trial included 538 patients with refractory partial epilepsy, 471 of whom entered the maintenance phase. Adjunctive retigabine (ezogabine) at doses of 600–900 mg daily produced significant seizure reduction with acceptable tolerability.

See p. 1817

Four novel cases of periaxin-related neuropathy and review of the literature



The authors report on 4 novel patients affected by an early-onset, slowly progressive demyelinating neuropathy with relevant sensory involvement. They indicate that PRX-related neuropathies have early onset but overall slow progression, with features

being prominent sensory involvement, a moderate-to-dramatic reduction of motor nerve conduction velocities and almost invariable absence of sensory nerve action potentials, and pathologic demyelination.

See p. 1830

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