In Focus

Spotlight on the August 3 Issue

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Functional connectivity and language impairment in cryptogenic localization-related epilepsy

Language was studied with functional MRI and neuropsychological assessment in 34 patients with epilepsy and 20 healthy controls. The findings suggest that language difficulties were related to reduced functional connectivity in the language networks.

See p. 395

Editorial quote from Meador and Hermann: "Vlooswijk and colleagues begin to bridge the gap between anatomic abnormalities and cognitive deficits in patients with focal epilepsy."

Editorial, p. 386

OAS1: A multiple sclerosis susceptibility gene that influences disease severity

The authors examined OAS1 genotype distribution in 401 patients with multiple sclerosis, 394 healthy controls, and 178 patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis receiving interferon beta. The results suggest that all patients beginning treatment for multiple sclerosis should be OAS1 genotyped. Those with the AA genotype in particular should be carefully monitored for evidence of disease activity.

See p. 411

Open biopsy in patients with acute progressive neurologic decline and absence of mass lesion

The authors retrospectively reviewed medical records of 135 consecutive patients who underwent open brain biopsies for acute to subacute progressive neurologic decline. This study provides a critical analysis of patient management by concentrating on diagnosis and treatment options prior to surgery.

See p. 419

Absence epilepsies with widely variable onset are a key feature of familial GLUT1 deficiency

This paper reports 2 large families with GLUT1 deficiency where typical childhood, juvenile, and even adult-onset absence epilepsies were observed. Diagnosis of GLUT1 deficiency has important treatment and genetic counseling implications.

See p. 432

Editorial quote from Nickels and Wirrell: "Genetic studies now appear to be the only way to establish this diagnosis reliably, particularly in less severe cases."

Editorial, p. 390

Impaired interhemispheric inhibition in writer's cramp

This study tested impaired interhemispheric inhibition bidirectionally in 7 patients with writer's cramp and 7 healthy controls. Two conditions were tested: "rest" with hands completely relaxed; and pen holding in the right hand. Interhemispheric inhibition may be a targeted mechanism for the development of therapies for writer's cramp.

See p. 441

Do all ischemic stroke subtypes benefit from organized inpatient stroke care?

Data from the Registry of the Canadian Stroke Network showed that higher levels of organized stroke care were associated with lower 30-day mortality in all ischemic stroke subtypes. This suggests that all ischemic strokes, including mild lacunar strokes and severe cardioembolic strokes, benefit from intensive stroke care.

See p. 456

CHANGES • PEOPLE • COMMENTS

All readers should regularly read Dr. Joynt's useful and often entertaining Comments. The Editor does, with relish. Further, he cannot refrain from snappily responding to item 10, in which Dr. Joynt is slyly implying that the Editor, whose earning a college degree was some time ago (in something other than English), cannot discern whether a gerund needs a descriptive term such as a possessive or (to be complete) an adjective. To which I reply: my learning about gerunds was easy, and accomplished before college; so the Editor is comfortable with his editing on such fine points.

See p. 484

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