



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 6 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



CAG repeat expansion in Huntington disease determines age at onset in a fully dominant fashion

Statistical assessment established that age at onset of Huntington disease was determined by the length of the CAG expansion mutation, with no additional influence of the CAG repeat from the other chromosome. These findings indicate that discovery of therapeutics should be aimed at dominant effects of a single copy of the mutation.

See p. 690; Editorial, p. 686

Role of DaTSCAN and clinical diagnosis in Parkinson disease

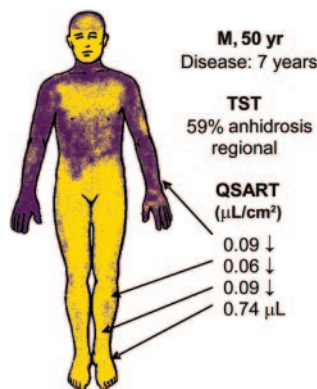
DaTSCAN imaging could be a helpful diagnostic tool in Parkinson disease. However, a comprehensive analysis of currently available evidence gives mathematically identical overall diagnostic accuracy values for DaTSCAN and clinical diagnosis. Hence current evidence does not support the utility of DaTSCAN imaging in clinical practice.

See p. 696

From editorialists Perlmutter & Eidelberg: "Any test has potential undesirable consequences, such as diagnostic inaccuracies leading to inappropriate treatment, lost opportunity for treatment, or subsequent unnecessary follow-up tests. The clinical utility of each new test ought to be evaluated."

See p. 688

Autonomic dysfunction in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy



Autonomic failure was characterized in 47 patients with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP) using the Composite Autonomic Severity Score. The autonomic phenotype of mild and restricted autonomic involvement was quite different in a number of inflammatory

neuropathies, differentiating CIDP from Guillain-Barré syndrome and other proximal inflammatory neuropathies.

See p. 702

Circulating IL-6 and CRP are associated with MRI findings in the elderly: The 3C-Dijon Study

Higher circulating interleukin-6 and C-reactive protein levels were associated with white matter hyperintensity severity, as well as global markers of brain atrophy, in 1,841 community-dwelling elderly. These results suggest that an inflammatory process may be involved in both age-associated brain abnormalities.

See p. 720

Central nervous system involvement in dengue: A study in fatal cases from a dengue endemic area

This paper stresses the importance of making the diagnosis of CNS involvement in dengue, characterized by the presence of dengue virus in CSF, demonstrated by viral isolation, PCR, NS1Ag and IgM detection in 48.8% of the dengue-positive fatal cases studied. This suggests that the improved diagnosis may reduce fatal outcomes.

See p. 736

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NEUROLOGIC PRACTICE

AAN policy on pharmaceutical and device industry support

The authors compared AAN policies to recommendations of area leaders and multiorganizational ethical codes, and found them to be appropriate in managing conflicts of interest related to industry.

See p. 750

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Selecting stroke patients for intra-arterial therapy

Most patients with acute ischemic stroke either present too late for, or do not completely respond to, IV rtPA. This review helps clinicians select which of these patients might benefit from additional therapeutic intervention; in particular, endovascular mechanical clot lysis (intra-arterial therapy).

See p. 755

NB: "A 21-year-old woman with multiple cancers and a new brain lesion": In this case, the gross total resection followed by external beam radiation treatment was relatively successful (see p. 743). To check out other *Neurology Clinical Pathological Conference* articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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