



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 27 Issue

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



Cognitive function and retinal and ischemic brain changes: The Women's Health Initiative

This study examined the link between lacunar infarcts and retinopathy, assessed using fundus photography, cognitive performance, and white matter hyperintensities, in 511 women aged 65 and older. Screening for retinopathy may provide an early surrogate marker for ischemic brain changes and thus prompt preventive measures.

See p. 942; Editorial, p. 936

Cognitive decline after hospitalization in a community population of older persons

During >9 years of observation, 1,335 of 1,870 older community residents were hospitalized at least once. Rate of cognitive decline more than doubled after hospitalization, even after controlling for prehospital cognitive level and illness severity. The results suggest that hospitalization in old age was associated with accelerated cognitive decline.

See p. 950

Warmer outdoor temperature is associated with worse cognitive status in multiple sclerosis

In both cross-sectional and longitudinal samples, 40 patients with multiple sclerosis performed worse than 40 controls on processing speed and memory tasks during warmer outdoor temperatures. These findings have implications for clinical trial planning, treatment, and lifestyle decisions and suggest that cognitive status may be a marker of quiescent exacerbations.

See p. 964; Editorial, p. 938

Randomized, placebo-controlled trial of propranolol added to topiramate in chronic migraine

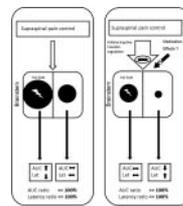
This randomized, placebo-controlled trial of 191 patients with chronic migraine provides evidence regarding a commonly used clinical practice of combining preventive medications but does not support adding propranolol to topiramate in chronic migraines uncontrolled by topiramate. The large placebo effect suggests cautious interpretation of open-label chronic migraine studies.

See p. 976

From editorialist Julio Pascual: "In the meantime, and while waiting for more definitive results, sensible combination therapies should not be denied to our patients with refractory CM."

See p. 940

Lateralized central facilitation of trigeminal nociception in cluster headache



Sixty-six patients with cluster headache (CH), as well as 30 controls, were investigated using simultaneous recordings of the nociceptive blink reflex and pain-related evoked potentials following nociceptive electrical stimulation on both sides of the forehead. Chronic CH was

associated with cerebral plasticity changes greater than those observed in patients with episodic CH.

See p. 985

A comparison of nine scales to detect depression in Parkinson disease: Which scale to use?

This study compared 9 depression scales in 269 patients with Parkinson disease (PD) and depression to provide guidance on scale selection. The GDS-30 may be the most efficient depression screening scale to use in PD; however, all scales studied, except for the UPDRS-Depression item, were valid screening tools when PD-specific cutoff scores were used.

See p. 998

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Stroke in sub-Saharan Africa: An urgent call for prevention

Stroke is the largest contributor to the neurologic disease burden in sub-Saharan Africa. Widespread screening and medical treatment for hypertension would have the greatest effect in reducing stroke incidence, along with lifestyle changes and reduction in salt intake.

See p. 1007

NB: Resident & Fellow Mystery Case: "An unusual case of syncope," p. e83. To check out other Mystery Cases, point your browser to www.neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section. Listen to Dr. Vesper Fe Marie Llaneza Ramos read this week's Reflections, "The Cleaning Lady," exclusively on Neurology[®] for the iPad[®].

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