



# In Focus

## Spotlight on the January 17 Issue

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Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>



### Randomized clinical trial for apogeotropic horizontal canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo

In 10 Korean nationwide dizziness clinics, 157 consecutive patients (95 women, age range: 18–89 years) with apogeotropic horizontal canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo were randomized to Gufoni, head-shaking, or sham maneuver. The Gufoni and head-shaking maneuvers were more effective than sham maneuver for immediate and long-term therapeutic benefit.

See p. 159; Editorial, p. 154

### Neuropathologic evidence of endothelial changes in cerebral small vessel disease

The authors examined wax-embedded tissue blocks containing anterior caudate putamen from 17 cases with small vessel disease and 12 controls. The data suggest that cerebral endothelial activation in deep penetrating arteries was not associated with small vessel disease but did confirm endothelial involvement.

See p. 167

*From editorialist Mark Fisher: "The report of protective benefit of recombinant human soluble TM in patients with disseminated intravascular coagulation may help generate attention for a clinical trial of this compound in acute ischemic stroke."*

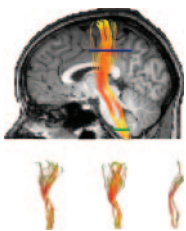
See p. 157

### Disruptions of functional connectivity in the default mode network of comatose patients

Default mode network (DMN) connectivity was established using independent component analysis of resting-state fMRI data in 13 comatose patients following cardiac arrest and 12 controls. DMN activity was present in patients who regained consciousness but was absent in nonsurvivors. fMRI has the potential to be used as a diagnostic tool to predict coma outcome.

See p. 175

### Effects of limb immobilization on brain plasticity



The authors examined 10 right-handed subjects with injury of the right upper extremity requiring at least 14 days of limb immobilization. Their results illustrate that cortical thickness of the sensorimotor cortex and fractional anisotropy of the corticospinal tract changed during right arm immobilization and was associated

with skill transfer from the right to left hand.

See p. 182

### Long-lasting treatment effect of rituximab in MuSK myasthenia

Seventeen patients (6 MuSK+myasthenia [MG] and 11 AChR+MG) were treated with rituximab. After 31 months, 10 of the AChR+MG patients improved but 6 needed reinfusions. In contrast, all MuSK+MG patients achieved a remission or minimal manifestations status and no reinfusions were needed. IV rituximab improves the clinical and immunologic status of patients with MuSK+MG.

See p. 189

### Shared loci for migraine and epilepsy on chromosomes 14q12-q23 and 12q24.2-q24.3

This paper describes a complicated phenotype in a family with epilepsy, migraine, and somnolence unconsciousness attacks. Evidence of linkage was found for migraine and epilepsy on chromosomes 14q12-q23 and 12q24.2-q24.3. These findings strengthen the theory of common genetic factors in epilepsy and migraine.

See p. 202

### CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH

#### Periaqueductal gray: An interface for behavioral control

The periaqueductal gray (PAG) is an anatomical and functional interface between the forebrain and the lower brainstem involved in behavioral responses to stressors. PAG stimulation may be used for treatment of some cases of recurrent reflex syncope triggered by emotion.

See p. 210

*NB: "Neurologists in Iraq: Five years later," see p. 218. To check out other Contemporary Issues in Neurologic Practice, point your browser to [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org).*

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