



In Focus

Spotlight on the February 7 Issue

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Biomarker validation of a cued recall memory deficit in prodromal Alzheimer disease

A total of 185 memory-clinic patients, fulfilling broad criteria for mild cognitive impairment (MCI), were assessed with an extended neuropsychological battery. Cued recall deficits were most closely associated with CSF biomarkers indicative of Alzheimer disease (AD) in subjects with MCI, providing further empirical support for cued recall as a specific indicator of prodromal AD.

See p. 379; Editorial, p. 374

β -Amyloid burden in healthy aging: Regional distribution and cognitive consequences

The authors examined 137 well-screened and cognitively normal adults who underwent $A\beta$ PET imaging with radiotracer ^{18}F -florbetapir. β -Amyloid deposition increased with age, and high amyloid burden was associated with diminished cognitive function, including deficits in processing speed, working memory, and fluid reasoning, as well as the increased prevalence of *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ risk.

See p. 387

Hospitalization for psychiatric disorders before and after onset of unprovoked seizures/epilepsy

This study identified 1,885 persons from Stockholm with new onset of unprovoked seizures for an 8-year period starting in 2000. Odds ratios were calculated. The increased rate of psychiatric comorbidity predating and succeeding seizure onset indicated a bidirectional relationship and common underlying mechanisms for psychiatric disorders and epilepsy.

See p. 396

CD8+ T-cell immunity in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy

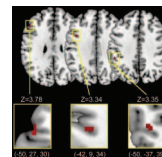
The authors used T-cell receptor (TCR) $V\beta$ spectratyping and CDR3 region sequencing, proving that clonally expanded CD8+ T cells dominate CIDP nerve biopsies. Clonally expanded CD8+ T cells are important in the pathogenesis of CIDP as they distinguish CIDP from other immune-mediated nervous disorders, raising the possibility of exogenous triggers underlying the self-perpetuating chronic autoimmune process.

See p. 402

From editorialists Hohlfeld & Dornmair: "Even if future investigations showed that the nerve-infiltrating CD8+ T cells do not act directly as cytotoxic effector cells, they might still play a role by recognizing a target antigen involved in the immunopathogenesis of CIDP."

See p. 376

Pattern of brain tissue loss associated with freezing of gait in Parkinson disease



The extent and distribution of gray matter atrophy was assessed using voxel-based morphometry in 17 Parkinson disease (PD) patients with freezing of gait (FOG) compared with 34 controls. FOG in PD likely shares, with executive dysfunction and perception deficits, a common pattern of structural damage to the frontal and parietal cortices.

See p. 409; Comment, p. 415

Predicting outcome of IV thrombolysis-treated ischemic stroke patients: The DRAGON score

The authors developed a simple score, according to magnitude of logistic regression coefficients, to predict functional outcome of thrombolysis in 1,319 ischemic stroke patients treated with IV alteplase. This score may help support clinical decision-making, especially when invasive add-on strategies are considered.

See p. 427

SPECIAL ARTICLE

The American Academy of Neurology position statement on abuse and violence

Neurology patients should be routinely screened for abuse and violence as abuse may directly or indirectly contribute to neurologic disease. Those who are physically or mentally disabled are at increased risk, and identification of abuse and neglect may influence the assessment and treatment of the presenting conditions.

See p. 433

NB: Resident & Fellow Mystery Case: "Teaching NeuroImages: Armored brain," see p. e39. To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions, point your browser to www.neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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