In Focus

Spotlight on the February 28 Issue

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY®

Epileptic seizures at initial presentation in patients with brain arteriovenous malformation

Epileptic seizures often occur in patients harboring a brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM). This study examined 155 consecutive patients with AVMs based on prospectively coded MRI and digital subtraction angiography data, with 45 patients who initially presented with seizures. Seizures mainly occurred in AVMs with superficial drainage. The benefit of interventional AVM treatment remains to be determined.

See p. 626

Prospective hemorrhage risk of intracerebral cavernous malformations

Records and radiographic data were reviewed and follow-up after diagnosis was obtained for 292 patients with cavernous malformations to determine their future risk of hemorrhage. Risk differed by initial presentation; in patients with recurrent hemorrhage, the risk decreased over time.

See p. 632

From editorialists Al-Shahi Salman & Murray: "Patients and their doctors remain concerned about the lifetime risk of CCM hemorrhage and functional outcome (which may not be worsened by recurrent events), so longer detailed follow-up is required."

See p. 614

Long-term survival after liver transplantation in patients with familial amyloid polyneuropathy

The authors analyzed the survival of 80 patients with familial amyloid polyneuropathy (FAP) Val30Met, 37 of whom had either a partial hepatic graft via living donor transplantation or liver transplantation. Liver transplantation should be considered in these patients, as it prolongs their survival.

See p. 637

Adult cases of mitochondrial DNA depletion due to *TK2* defect: An expanding spectrum

TK2 mutations may cause mitochondrial dystrophic myopathy, associated with mitochondrial DNA depletion, which may have adult onset and slow progression; previously, this was considered a pediatric disease. Higher muscle mitochondrial DNA content despite *TK2* mutations common to pediatric cases suggests the presence of hitherto unknown compensatory mechanisms.

See p. 644

Red blood cell omega-3 fatty acid levels and markers of accelerated brain aging

The authors examined the cross-sectional relation of red blood cell (RBC) fatty acid levels to imaging and cognitive markers of dementia in 854 dementia-free women. Lower RBC docosahexaenoic acid levels were associated with smaller brain volumes and a vascular pattern of cognitive impairment in persons free of clinical dementia.

See p. 658

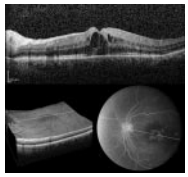
Serologic diagnosis of NMO: A multicenter comparison of aquaporin-4-IgG assays

Six assay methods were performed using coded serum from 35 patients with neuromyelitis optica, 25 with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders, 39 with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, 25 with other autoimmune diseases, and 22 controls. The highest sensitivities were achieved by assays detecting IgG binding to cells expressing recombinant AQP4 with quantitative flow cytometry or visual observation.

See p. 665; Comment, p. 669

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Fingolimod-associated macular edema: Incidence, detection, and management



Premarketing clinical trials demonstrated that fingolimod was well tolerated, with drug discontinuation occurring in some cases at higher dosages. If patients develop visual loss during fingolimod therapy, they should be assessed for optic neuritis and macular edema.

See p. 672

NB: Resident & Fellow "International Issues: Neurology mission in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest," see p. e60. 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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Neurology 2012;78;611
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31824ab0c7