In Focus

Spotlight on the October 16 Issue

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Amyloid- β assessed by florbetapir F 18 PET and 18-month cognitive decline: A multicenter study

This study evaluated the relationship between amyloid- β detected on florbetapir PET scans and cognitive decline in 51 patients with recently diagnosed mild cognitive decline, 31 with clinically diagnosed Alzheimer disease dementia, and 69 controls. Florbetapir PET may help identify individuals at increased risk for progressive cognitive decline.

See p. 1636; Editorial, p. 1628

Growth failure and outcome in Rett syndrome: Specific growth references

Growth charts of classic and atypical Rett syndrome were created from 9,749 observations of 816 girls. Mean growth in classic Rett syndrome decreased below the normative population at 1 month for head circumference, 6 months for weight, and 17 months for length. Specific growth references will allow effective screening for disease and treatment monitoring.

See p. 1653

Cerebral gray and white matter changes and clinical course in metachromatic leukodystrophy

This study analyzed 18 patients with metachromatic leukodystrophy and 42 normally developing children. Besides demyelination, neuronal dysfunction caused by neuronal storage plays an additional role in the disease process. The demyelination load may be a useful noninvasive imaging marker for disease progression and serve as reference for therapeutic intervention.

See p. 1662

No MRI evidence of cortical lesions in neuromyelitis optica

The authors evaluated the occurrence of focal and diffuse cortical pathology in 30 patients with neuromyelitis optica (NMO), 30 patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), and 30 controls. NMO differs from MS where cortical

lesions and atrophy were frequently found; these results suggest that MRI analysis of the cortex may be helpful in the diagnosis of autoimmune diseases.

See p. 1671

From editorialist Olga Ciccarelli: "It is tempting to propose that thalamic atrophy contributes to cognitive impairment in NMO as it does in MS, though this would require further study."

See p. 1630

Serum tight-junction proteins predict hemorrhagic transformation in ischemic stroke patients

The authors examined 458 consecutive ischemic stroke patients, 7.2% of whom had clinically evident hemorrhagic transformation. None of the patients was treated with thrombolytic drugs. Assessing levels of tight-junction proteins such as occludin and claudin 5 and their interplay with vascular endothelial growth factor in early phase of stroke is an effective way to predict clinical deterioration.

See p. 1677; Editorial, p. 1632

Racial differences in albuminuria, kidney function, and risk of stroke

In a cohort of 25,310 African American and white adults, higher urinary albumin excretion was associated with higher risk of stroke, particularly among African Americans. Therefore, urinary albumin excretion may be a novel biomarker for stroke in the general population and especially in African Americans.

See p. 1686; Editorial p. 1634

Reliability and accuracy of skeletal muscle imaging in limb-girdle muscular dystrophies

Four evaluators assessed scans from 118 patients with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy caused by mutations in 7 different genes and from 32 controls. Muscle CT might be an adjunct to the clinical diagnosis of Becker muscular dystrophy and Bethlem myopathy. However, pattern recognition was cumbersome in the other limb-girdle muscular dystrophies.

See p. 1716

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Presymptomatic studies in ALS: Rationale, challenges, and approach

The last 15 years has witnessed a shift in understanding neurodegenerative diseases, recognizing that the degenerative process begins years prior to the appearance of clinical manifestations. Whether ALS is also characterized by a prolonged presymptomatic period is unclear, but answering this question will likely have profound implications for understanding this disease.

See p. 1732

NB: "A background of the Yemeni Neuroscience Society," see p. 1724. To check out other Global Perspectives, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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