In Focus

Spotlight on the November 6 Issue

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GBA mutations increase risk for Lewy body disease with and without Alzheimer disease pathology

In 562 cases of dementia and 391 controls, the frequency of *GBA* mutations was elevated in patients with “pure” dementia with Lewy bodies. The frequency was

less in those with mixed Alzheimer disease and Lewy body disease pathology, but not in those with “pure” Alzheimer disease pathology.

See p. 1944

From editorialists Swerdlow & Newell: “... it is worth considering that patients with DLB [dementia with Lewy bodies] without prominent parkinsonism may have the same biological predisposition to adverse side effects as patients with DLB with prominent parkinsonism.”

See p. 1938

Generalized periodic discharges in the critically ill: A case-control study of 200 patients

Two hundred patients with generalized periodic discharges (GPDs) were matched to 200 controls. GPDs were strongly associated with nonconvulsive seizures and nonconvulsive status epilepticus. Nonconvulsive status epilepticus was independently associated with worse outcome, but GPDs were not after matching for age, etiology, and level of consciousness.

See p. 1951; Editorial, p. 1940

Neurodegenerative causes of death among retired National Football League players

This study analyzed neurodegenerative causes of death, specifically Alzheimer disease (AD), Parkinson disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), in 3,439 National Football League players with at least 5 pension-credited playing seasons from 1959 to 1988. The neurodegenerative mortality was 3 times higher than the general US population, with AD and ALS 4 times higher.

See p. 1970

Determinants of fitness to drive in Huntington disease

Physicians struggle to identify unsafe drivers in those with Huntington disease. Three neuropsychological tests correctly classified fitness to drive in 87% of persons with Huntington disease, compared to an official driving test. The screening battery is inexpensive, flexible, and more accurate than the patient’s self-appraisal or the appraisal of a neurologist.

See p. 1975

Extensive genetics of ALS: A population-based study in Italy

In 475 patients, 51 carried an ALS-related gene and 46 had a positive family history for ALS or frontotemporal dementia (FTD). Besides a positive family history for ALS or FTD, the chance of carrying a genetic mutation was related to the presence of comorbid FTD and age at onset.

See p. 1983

Do-not-resuscitate orders, quality of care, and outcomes in veterans with acute ischemic stroke

A cohort of 3,965 patients with acute ischemic stroke was studied. Following multivariable adjustment, there were few associations between do-not-resuscitate orders and 14 stroke quality indicators. These data suggest that do-not-resuscitate orders did not influence quality of stroke care within the Veterans Health Administration system.

See p. 1990

CLINICAL/SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Tumefactive multiple sclerosis lesions under fingolimod treatment

A 23-year-old woman with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) started fingolimod 0.5 mg per day and later had a tumefactive multiple sclerosis (MS) lesion. Although fingolimod is a promising and generally safe treatment for RRMS, doctors should be alert for unknown side effects; this case highlights the uncertain relationship between tumefactive MS lesions and fingolimod treatment.

See p. 2000 and pp. 2002, 2004, and 2006; Editorial, p. 1942

NB: “The past and present of Italian neurology,” see p. 1997. To check out other *Global Perspectives*, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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