



# In Focus

## Spotlight on the November 13 Issue

**Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN**  
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>

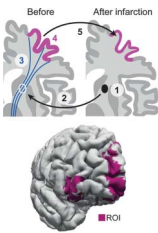


### Effect of blood pressure on 3-month functional outcome in the subacute stage of ischemic stroke

The authors obtained blood pressure readings during hospitalization in 2,271 acute ischemic stroke patients. When caring for stroke patients, attention to blood pressure variability beyond the acute stage, defined as 72 hours after onset, may be a key predictor of functional outcome.

See p. 2018; Editorial, p. 2014

### Incident subcortical infarcts induce focal thinning in connected cortical regions



Incident subcortical infarcts were identified on follow-up MR scans after 18, 36, and 54 months in 276 subjects with CADASIL. This analysis provides *in vivo* evidence for secondary cortical neurodegeneration after subcortical ischemia as a mechanism for brain atrophy in cerebrovascular disease.

See p. 2025

From editorialists Smith & Arboix: "... the remote 'action at a distance' may be the key to solving the riddle of why small subcortical infarcts have such large consequences on cognition."

See p. 2016

### Cerebral small-vessel disease and progression of brain atrophy: The SMART-MR study

This study investigated MRI changes in 565 patients with symptomatic atherosclerotic disease. Presence and progression of periventricular white matter lesions and lacunar infarcts was associated with greater progression of brain atrophy independent of vascular risk factors.

See p. 2029

### Adherence to antihypertensive agents after ischemic stroke and risk of cardiovascular outcomes

The authors examined 14,227 patients with ischemic stroke who were treated with antihypertensive (AH) agents. Each case was matched to 15 controls. Adherence to AH agents was associated with adherence to other secondary preventive therapies and a risk reduction for nonfatal vascular events after an ischemic stroke.

See p. 2037

### Migraine headache is present in the aura phase: A prospective study

Migraine aura is perceived as a distinct phase of a migraine attack preceding headaches. The authors recorded clinical data of 861 attacks of migraine with aura in 201 patients. In the majority of patients, headache was already present during the aura phase.

See p. 2044

### Dysfunction of the neuromuscular junction in spinal muscular atrophy types 2 and 3

This study performed repetitive nerve stimulation in 35 patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) types 2, 3 and 4; in 20 healthy controls; and in 5 controls with motor neuron disease. The data suggest dysfunction of the neuromuscular junction in patients with SMA types 2 and 3, making drugs facilitating neuromuscular transmission candidates for evaluation in clinical trials.

See p. 2050

### Video game—based coordinative training improves ataxia in children with degenerative ataxia

The effectiveness of an 8-week program of coordinative training based on video games was investigated using an intra-individual control design with rater-blinded assessments in 10 children with degenerative ataxia. Directed training of whole-body-controlled video games presented a highly motivational, cost-efficient, and home-based rehabilitation strategy in young-onset neurologic conditions.

See p. 2056

### Traumatic brain injury, paraquat exposure, and their relationship to Parkinson disease

This study enrolled 357 incident idiopathic Parkinson disease (PD) cases and 754 controls. Study participants were asked to report all head injuries with loss of consciousness for >5 minutes. While traumatic brain injury and paraquat exposure each increased the risk of PD moderately, exposure to both factors tripled PD risk.

See p. 2061

## VIEWS & REVIEWS

### Parkinson disease and driving: An evidence-based review

No single test can be used to screen for driving impairment, and a standard clinical battery has yet to be developed. Until that time, physicians/clinicians should refer Parkinson disease patients in question for a comprehensive driving evaluation or to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an on-road assessment.

See p. 2067

*NB: "Contrast-enhanced ultrasound and detection of carotid plaque neovascularization," see p. 2081. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org).*

Podcasts can be accessed at [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org)

# Neurology®

## Spotlight on the November 13 Issue

Robert A. Gross

*Neurology* 2012;79;2013

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e318276b85f

### This information is current as of November 12, 2012

**Updated Information & Services**

including high resolution figures, can be found at:  
<http://n.neurology.org/content/79/20/2013.full>

**Permissions & Licensing**

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:  
[http://www.neurology.org/about/about\\_the\\_journal#permissions](http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions)

**Reprints**

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:  
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

*Neurology*® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2012 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

