



In Focus

Spotlight on the July 24 Issue

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Reducing in-hospital delay to 20 minutes in stroke thrombolysis

In Helsinki, 31% of ischemic stroke patients receive IV thrombolytic therapy, with a treatment rate of one per day, and half initiated within 20 minutes of presentation. This paper describes detailed methods of reducing thrombolysis treatment delays, the main goal being to do as much as possible before patient arrival.

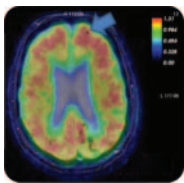
See p. 306; Editorial, p. 296

Hematoma growth and outcomes in intracerebral hemorrhage: The INTERACT1 study

In 404 patients with both baseline and 24-hour brain CT, associations between measures of absolute and relative hematoma growth and 90-day poor outcomes of death and dependency were assessed in logistic regression models. Medical treatments, such as rapid intensive blood pressure lowering, could achieve ~2–4 mL absolute attenuation of hematoma growth.

See p. 314; Editorial, p. 298

Predicting sites of new hemorrhage with amyloid imaging in cerebral amyloid angiopathy



Using amyloid imaging of 11 patients with cerebral amyloid angiopathy, this study showed that lobar brain bleeds occur at sites of high baseline amyloid. The results confirm the cause-effect relationship between amyloid burden and hemorrhage

and suggest how amyloid imaging may be clinically useful for predicting incident hemorrhages.

See p. 320

Neglect-like tactile dysfunction in chronic back pain

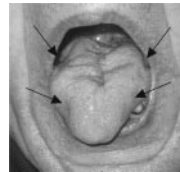
In 3 cross-sectional trials, 26 patients with low back pain and 12 controls made temporal order judgments of pairs of tactile stimuli. In patients with chronic back pain, stimuli from the healthy side were prioritized over those from the painful side, suggesting a deeper level of neurologic dysfunction in chronic pain.

See p. 327

From editorialists Birklein & Maihöfner: "One major goal must now be to show how body and mind have to be rearranged to tune down chronic pain—by intensifying or by shutting down the neglect of the back?"

See p. 300

Clinical features of SCA36: A novel spinocerebellar ataxia with motor neuron involvement (Asidan)



The authors presented clinical features of a novel form of spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA36) by investigating the original families used to isolate the hexanucleotide GGCCTG repeat expansion mutation in the *NOP56* gene.

Cerebellar ataxia followed by motor neuron involvement was the primary clinical feature of SCA36, supported by electrophysiologic and neuropathologic findings.

See p. 333; Editorial, p. 302

A candidate gene for autoimmune myasthenia gravis

The authors performed genome-wide homozygosity mapping and sequenced all known genes in the one region of extended homozygosity in 5 of 10 siblings who had typical adult-onset myasthenia. The results indicate that the sequence variant in *ENOX1* may contribute to familial autoimmune myasthenia in these patients.

See p. 342; Editorial, p. 304

A prescription for the Epley Maneuver: www.youtube.com?

The Epley maneuver is a simple and effective treatment for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo of the posterior canal. In a YouTube search, 3,319 videos were identified, with only 33 demonstrating the Epley maneuver. Video-sharing media may be an important way to disseminate effective interventions such as the Epley maneuver.

See p. 376

NB: "Resident & Fellow Journal Club: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of simvastatin to treat Alzheimer disease," see p. e33. 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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