In Focus

Spotlight on the October 22 Issue

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Omega-3 fatty acids and domain-specific cognitive aging: Secondary analyses of data from WHISCA

The authors assessed the relationship between prerandomization red blood cell docosahexaenoic acid + eicosapentaenoic acid levels and cognitive function in 2,157 cognitively normal women. After adjustment for demographic, clinical, and behavioral characteristics, there were no cognitive differences at the time of the first annual cognitive battery or in the rate of cognitive change.

See p. 1484

A lipid storage–like disorder contributes to cognitive decline in HIV-infected subjects

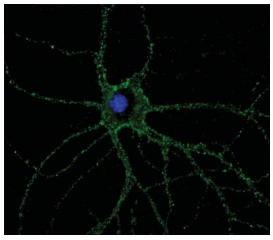
A quantitative lipidomic analysis was conducted on 524 longitudinal CSF samples. Subjects included HIV-infected individuals with longitudinal clinical and cognitive test data and cognitively normal HIV-negative healthy controls. HIV infection and combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) were independently associated with a CNS metabolic disturbance, identifying surrogate markers prognostic for cognitive decline.

See p. 1492

From editorialists Gelbard & Gendelman: "We must continue to focus on what happens to the entire CNS and peripheral ecosystem as people treated with cART continue to live and age with HIV-1."

See p. 1480

Encephalitis and $GABA_B$ receptor antibodies: Novel findings in a new case series of 20 patients



This study showed that $GABA_B$ receptor ($GABA_BR$) antibodies are predominantly associated with limbic encephalitis but also occur in some patients with ataxia or opsoclonus. Detection of $GABA_BR$ antibodies is important because more than half of these patients have a small-cell lung cancer with neurologic symptoms that respond well to therapy, regardless of the association with a neoplasm.

See p. 1500; Editorial, p. 1482

Copy number variants are frequent in genetic generalized epilepsy with intellectual disability

Copy number variants (CNVs) are recognized genetic determinants of epilepsy. In patients with genetic generalized epilepsy with intellectual disability, there was a considerably higher rate of recurrent genetic generalized epilepsy microdeletions (10%) and of all CNVs (28%) than in those of normal intellect. CNV testing is important in these patients.

See p. 1507

Prognostic or predictive value of *MGMT* promoter methylation in gliomas depends on *IDH1* mutation

Patients of the NOA-04 trial with known *MGMT* and *IDH1* status were analyzed for interdependency of the prognostic vs predictive role of *MGMT* promoter methylation from *IDH1* or 1p/19q status and treatment. *MGMT* promoter methylation was a predictive biomarker for benefit from alkylating agent chemotherapy in patients with *IDH1*-wild-type, but not *IDH1*-mutant, malignant gliomas.

See p. 1515

Unrecognized vitamin D_3 deficiency is common in Parkinson disease: Harvard Biomarker Study

The authors used liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry to establish a specific association between deficiency of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D_3 and Parkinson disease in 388 patients and 283 controls free of neurologic disease. This study suggests that many patients with Parkinson disease may be vitamin D–deficient, and that this deficiency is relevant for optimal care.

See p. 1531

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Quality improvement in neurology: Dementia management quality measures

These measures recognize the challenge dementia presents to patients and their caregivers, health care providers, public health officials, and government and private insurers. While we await more effective disease-modifying treatments for patients with dementia, the measures outlined here will improve the quality of life for patients with dementia and their caregivers.

See p. 1545

NB: "The Dercum-Muybridge collaboration for sequential photography of neurologic disorders," see p. 1550. To check out other Historical Neurology articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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