



In Focus

Spotlight on the November 12 Issue

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Myocardial scintigraphy may predict the conversion to probable dementia with Lewy bodies

The authors examined 94 patients with possible dementia with Lewy bodies based on established consensus criteria. ¹²³I-MIBG myocardial scintigraphy was a good predictor of the future conversion of possible to probable dementia with Lewy bodies.

See p. 1741

From editorialists Ballard & Grimmer: "Independent validation, including blinding of diagnosing clinicians with regards to the ¹²³I-MIBG results, is needed for a potential diagnostic test; optimal cutoffs may overestimate the magnitude of diagnostic discrimination."

See p. 1730

Higher glucose levels associated with lower memory and reduced hippocampal microstructure

The authors investigated blood glucose markers, memory, and hippocampal structure in 141 nondiabetic older adults. They found an association between chronically elevated glucose levels and lower memory performance, hippocampal volume, and microstructure. These findings may aid the understanding of the mechanisms underlying the detrimental effects of elevated glucose on the aging brain.

See p. 1746

CSF biomarker changes precede symptom onset of mild cognitive impairment

Longitudinal CSF collection and cognitive assessments were performed on a cohort of 265 participants who were cognitively normal at their baseline assessment but later developed mild cognitive impairment or dementia. CSF markers that precede symptoms may allow presymptomatic treatments for Alzheimer disease.

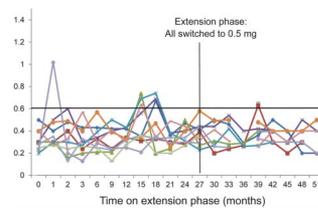
See p. 1753

Gray matter damage predicts the accumulation of disability 13 years later in MS

The authors identified clinical and MRI predictors of locomotor disability and cognitive impairment in 73 patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. Baseline gray matter fraction was the only predictor of worsening locomotor function; disease duration and baseline gray matter magnetization transfer ratio were independent predictors of cognitive deterioration.

See p. 1759

Basis for fluctuations in lymphocyte counts in fingolimod-treated patients with multiple sclerosis



Total peripheral blood lymphocyte counts were measured every 3 months in patients receiving fingolimod for 4 to 7 years. Fingolimod is increasingly common as a therapy for multiple sclerosis,

though optimal dosing is uncertain and induction of peripheral blood lymphopenia is a concern. Lymphocyte counts may be a convenient biomarker to provide guidance regarding safety and efficacy.

See p. 1768

Hemosiderin deposition in the brain as footprint of high-altitude cerebral edema

This study involved 37 mountaineers: 10 had high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE), 8 had high-altitude pulmonary edema, 11 had severe acute mountain sickness, and 8 had no high-altitude illness. Microhemorrhages detectable by susceptibility-weighted MRI predominantly in the corpus callosum are long-lasting footprints of HACE.

See p. 1776

Sensitivity of MRI of the spine compared with CT myelography in orthostatic headache with CSF leak

CT myelography is currently used for the diagnosis of spontaneous intracranial hypotension; however, the authors found that a noncontrast MRI of the spine was noninvasive and did not involve radiation. They propose that brain MRI with and without contrast and noncontrast spine MRI should be used for patients with a suspected spinal CSF leak.

See p. 1789

NB: "Cognitive delay in a 7-year-old girl," see p. e148. To check out other Resident & Fellow Child Neurology articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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