In Focus

Spotlight on the March 10 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles on the association between the *PARK10* haplotype and the risk of developing idiopathic Parkinson disease and on how enzyme replacement therapy may prevent thromboembolic vascular events in patients with Fabry disease with a high risk of such events. Other featured articles focus on the clinicopathologic features of folate-deficiency neuropathy and on measurement of quality of life in muscular dystrophy.

ARTICLES

Autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in multiple sclerosis: A phase II trial

The authors demonstrated that intense immunosuppression followed by autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (AHSCT) compared to mitoxantrone reduced the number of new T2 lesions by 79%, the number of gadolinium-positive lesions, and the annualized relapse rate. These findings indicate that intense immunosuppression followed by AHSCT may be effective in severe multiple sclerosis.

See p. 981

From editorialist Paolo A. Muraro: "Although comparisons among protocols are difficult, in the pivotal trials mitoxantrone combined with methylprednisolone showed an 84% reduction in the number of gadolinium-enhancing lesions compared to the methylprednisolone-only control arm over 6-month monthly MRI and natalizumab showed a 92% reduction compared to placebo at 2 years. What are the implications of this study for clinical practice? For MS, AHSCT remains an unlicensed therapy, and more work is needed to define its clinical indication."

See p. 968

Racial disparities in methamphetamine-associated intracerebral hemorrhage

This study showed that methamphetamine-associated intracerebral hemorrhage is not rare and is more prevalent among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders than white patients. This suggests that methamphetamine use should be routinely screened, although methamphetamine use does not entirely explain the existing stroke disparities in this ethnic group.

See p. 995; Comment, p. 999

Long-term disability after lacunar stroke: Secondary prevention of small subcortical strokes

The Secondary Prevention of Small Subcortical Strokes study of lacunar stroke patients provided annual assessments of instrumental activities of daily living and generalized estimating equations modeling the

likelihood of disability over time. In these patients, worse long-term function was associated with diabetes, lower cognitive status, and prior stroke.

See p. 1002

Long-term efficacy and safety of thalamic stimulation for drug-resistant partial epilepsy ▲

The cohort of 110 participants who were followed after the randomized study phase with open-label stimulation showed a 69% median reduction in seizures over baseline, a 16% rate of seizure freedom for at least 6 months, and a tolerable side effect profile. This study documents a lasting benefit of anterior thalamic deep brain stimulation for medication-resistant epilepsy.

See p. 1017

NB: "A Child Neurologist's Lament," see p. 1060. To check out other Humanities submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Views & Reviews article discussing how the neurophysiologic abnormalities in patients with dystonia and tremor resemble those in dystonia but differ from those described in essential tremor. This week also includes a Global Perspectives article titled "Asian neurology and stroke."

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