In Focus

Spotlight on the March 17 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features several articles on cerebrovascular disease and stroke. The first discusses how meta-analysis identifies prolonged sleep as a potentially useful marker of increased future stroke risk in a healthy, aging population, and the second discusses the dependency of willingness-to-pay thresholds in societal perspectives and whether Stroke Emergency Mobile prehospital care will provide a reasonable innovation in health-economic terms. Another featured article focuses on the effects of vascular risk factors and APOE ϵ 4 on white matter integrity and cognitive decline.

ARTICLES

Prestroke antiplatelet agents in first-ever ischemic stroke: Clinical effects ▲

After using propensity score analysis to balance differences between treated and untreated patients, the authors demonstrated that prestroke antiplatelet agents could decrease first-ever stroke severity, a beneficial effect.

See p. 1080; Comment, p. 1088

Head injury and risk for Parkinson disease: Results from a Danish case-control study

In this study of 1,705 patients and 1,785 controls, no association was observed between number of head injuries, loss of consciousness, or amnesia and Parkinson disease. The results suggest against the hypothesis that head injury increases the risk for Parkinson disease.

See p. 1098

Age of first exposure to football and later-life cognitive impairment in former NFL players 📺

Using neuropsychological tests, an association with later-life cognitive impairment was found in former National Football League players who played tackle football prior to age 12. These findings suggest that incurring repeated head injuries during a critical neurodevelopmental period may increase the risk of later-life cognitive impairment.

See p. 1114

From editorialists Filley & Bernick: "If the age at which one is exposed to mTBI is substantiated as a risk factor for cognitive impairment or even dementia in later life, the salutary effects of physical exercise may need to be qualified by attention to the kind of sports in which children participate. Contact sports such as football may require careful consideration in children, who may appear to be resilient to mTBI but could be at risk for cognitive dysfunction decades later."

See p. 1068

Differences in Alzheimer disease clinical trial outcomes based on age of the participants

Alzheimer disease clinical trials have increasingly focused on younger, asymptomatic individuals. In analyzing these trial data, this study showed that younger individuals had greater progression and potential for treatment effects

than older individuals. Clinicians should take care when applying clinical trial results to older patients, in whom there may be less benefit on clinical outcome measures.

See p. 1121; Comment, p. 1126

NB: "Eye of the storm," see p. 1180. To check out other Visions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Notes discussing SPG7 mutations as a common cause of undiagnosed ataxia and how anti-MOG antibodies with longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis are preceded by chronic lymphocytic inflammation with pontine perivascular enhancement responsive to steroids.

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