In Focus

Spotlight on the May 12 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article on the effect of white matter lesions on manual dexterity in healthy middle-aged persons and another describing that the lower the hippocampus global connectivity, the higher its local metabolism in Alzheimer disease. Another featured article focuses on perampanel efficacy and tolerability with enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs in patients with epilepsy.

ARTICLES

HIV status and the risk of ischemic stroke among men

The authors analyzed data on 76,835 participants free of baseline cardiovascular disease, assessing demographics, stroke risk factors, comorbid diseases, substance use, HIV biomarkers, and incidence of ischemic stroke. HIV infection was associated with an increased ischemic stroke risk among HIV-positive men compared with demographically and behaviorally similar uninfected men.

See p. 1933

Long-term outcome after arterial ischemic stroke in children and young adults

This study compared functional and psychosocial long-term outcomes in patients who had arterial ischemic strokes during childhood or young adulthood. No major differences were found in long-term outcome after arterial ischemic stroke in children and young adults for either mortality and disability or quality of life, psychological, or social variables.

See p. 1941

From editorialists Golomb & Lo: "Seven years of outcome is impressive, and helpful for adults looking at what their adult lives will hold, but it is not enough time for children to fully grow up. Parents want to know if their children with stroke will be able to finish high school, attend university, hold a job, live independently, and start families of their own."

See p. 1916

Prevalence and distribution of VZV in temporal arteries of patients with giant cell arteritis

In an analysis of 50 sections from each of 82 temporal arteries from patients with giant cell arteritis (GCA), varicella-zoster virus (VZV) was detected in 74% of temporal arteries. The authors also found VZV antigen, VZV DNA, and virus particles. These data suggest that patients should be treated not only with corticosteroids but also with antiviral agents.

See p. 1948

From editorialists Kennedy & Lipton: "Despite the important findings described in this seminal article, the combined administration of acyclovir and corticosteroids in patients with GCA seems premature. However, that situation will likely change if a future clinical trial of combined antiviral and corticosteroid therapy in GCA produces substantial benefit compared to patients receiving corticosteroids alone."

See p. 1918

Sleep-disordered breathing advances cognitive decline in the elderly

In this study, sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) was associated with an earlier age of mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer disease onset, but there was a potential treatment benefit of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) use in delaying cognitive decline. CPAP treatment may therefore be a good strategy for preventing memory loss in patients with SDB.

See p. 1964

NB: "Lumbar puncture refusal in sub-Saharan Africa: A call for further understanding and intervention," see p. 1988. To check out other Global Perspectives, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Neurolmage discussing vascular-induced compensatory pseudo-retrocollis and the Clinical Reasoning article about a patient with rapidly progressive sensory loss and imbalance. This week also includes a Humanities story titled "Wastebasket patient."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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