In Focus

Spotlight on the May 26 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles on the potential sex differences in nonmotor symptoms in early drug-naïve Parkinson disease and on how the absence of α - and β -dystroglycan is associated with Walker-Warburg syndrome. Another featured article tackles the shared genetic underpinnings of migraine and ischemic stroke.

ARTICLES

Impaired corticostriatal connectivity in impulse control disorders in Parkinson disease

The authors compared the striatum's resting-state functional connectivity in 20 Parkinson disease (PD) patients with impulse control disorders, 19 PD patients without impulse control disorders, and 19 controls. Impulse

control disorders in PD were associated with alteration in corticostriatal connectivity that goes beyond a pure dopaminergic mesolimbic dysregulation.

See p. 2116

Triptan-induced disruption of trigemino-cortical connectivity

In this study, 21 participants received sumatriptan and 22 participants received acetylsalicylic acid and underwent functional MRI while receiving trigemino-nociceptive stimulation and control stimuli. These data suggest that a specific functional inhibition of trigemino-cortical projections is one reason why triptans, unlike pain killers, act specifically on headaches and migraines but not on pain.

See p. 2124; Comment, p. 2129

Etanercept in Alzheimer disease: A randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, phase 2 trial

In this study, patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer disease dementia were randomized to subcutaneous etanercept (50 mg) once weekly or placebo over a 24-week period. Subcutaneous etanercept was well tolerated in this small group of patients, but a larger group needs to be tested before recommending its use for broader groups of patients.

See p. 2161

Differential effects of enriched environment at work on cognitive decline in old age

The authors assessed the effect of enriched environment—defined as mentally demanding work conditions during the professional life—on cognitive decline. The findings suggest that mentally demanding work conditions, which stimulate verbal intelligence and executive cognitive functions, may help sustain good cognitive function in old age.

See p. 2169

NB: "The cost of multiple sclerosis drugs in the US and the pharmaceutical industry: Too big to fail?" see p. 2185. To check out other Contemporary Issues articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Notes discussing a slowly progressive mitochondrial encephalomyopathy that widens the spectrum of A1FM1 disorders and how cystic leukoencephalopathy with cortical dysplasia is related to LAMB1 mutations. This week also includes a Humanities story titled "The Hanging."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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