In Focus

Spotlight on the January 20 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features several articles on HIV and cognitive function, focusing on findings in women with HIV and the effect of hepatitis C infection. Other featured articles explore the topics of *DARS*-associated leukoencephalopathy, *ATXN2* polyQ intermediate repeats as a modifier of ALS survival, and monthly pasireotide LAR for recurrent or progressive meningioma.

ARTICLES

Cognitive function in women with HIV: Findings from the Women's Interagency HIV Study

Fifteen hundred twenty-one participants (1,019 HIV-infected) completed a comprehensive neuropsychological test battery. The authors used multivariable regression on raw test scores and normative regression-based analyses and demonstrated that the effect of HIV on cognition in women was small except among women with low reading level or HIV-related comorbidities.

See p. 231

From editorialists Cysique & Becker: "The results of this study show that the complex socioeconomic and health factors that are otherwise known to be associated with economic and social inequalities cannot be ignored if we are to understand the effect of chronic illness on the brain."

See p. 220

Double-blind, randomized, controlled, crossover trial of pregabalin for neurogenic claudication

This trial demonstrates a lack of pain relief with pregabalin for neurogenic claudication associated with lumbar spinal stenosis. Pregabalin was not more effective than active placebo in reducing painful symptoms or functional limitations in patients over age 50.

See p. 265

Alcohol consumption, drinking patterns, and cognitive function in older Eastern European adults

The authors investigated the associations of frequency, quantity, binge, and problem drinking with cognitive function in 14,575 participants. Regular and episodic heavy drinking were not consistently associated with cognitive function. Worse cognition in participants who stopped drinking during follow-up suggests that inclusion of less healthy ex-drinkers may partly explain the finding of poorer cognition in nondrinkers.

See p. 287

Exercise for falls prevention in Parkinson disease: A randomized controlled trial

Two hundred thirty-one patients with Parkinson disease were randomized into exercise or usual-care control groups. Exercises were practiced for 40 to 60 minutes, 3 times weekly for 6 months. An exercise program targeting balance, leg strength, and freezing of gait did not reduce falls, but it improved physical and psychological health.

See p. 304

NB: "Lenalidomide monotherapy as salvage treatment for recurrent primary CNS lymphoma," see p. 325. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the 2 NeuroImages discussing disseminated cysticercosis and levamisole-induced leukoencephalopathy mimicking Baló disease. This week also includes our monthly Clinical Implications of Neuroscience Research section, titled "The amygdala: Functional organization and involvement in neurologic disorders."

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