



In Focus

Spotlight on the October 13 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article assessing basal ganglia pathology in ALS and its association with neuropsychological deficits and another describing a geographical cluster of progressive supranuclear palsy in northern France. A third article focuses on time trends in incidence, case fatality, and mortality of intracerebral hemorrhage.

ARTICLES

Is normosmic Parkinson disease a unique clinical phenotype?

The authors analyzed the data of 208 patients with de novo Parkinson disease (PD) who underwent both olfactory function tests and dopamine transporter scans. Their results suggest that normosmic PD is a unique clinical phenotype with a more benign course than hyposmic PD. A follow-up study to confirm these findings is needed.

See p. 1270

From editorialists Rossi & Ulivelli: "Further work on olfactory function as it relates to the PD phenotype will necessarily depend on investigations aimed at verifying long-term response to dopaminergic treatments and the timing of occurrence of motor fluctuations, as well as the presence and degree of other nonmotor symptoms throughout the disease evolution."

See p. 1266

Longitudinal study of normal cognition in Parkinson disease

Patients with Parkinson disease (PD) and normal cognition remain at high risk of developing cognitive impairment. This was established by following a cohort of patients with PD long-term with routinely scheduled cognitive testing and expert consensus cognitive categorization. These findings emphasize the need for screening for cognitive ability at all stages of PD.

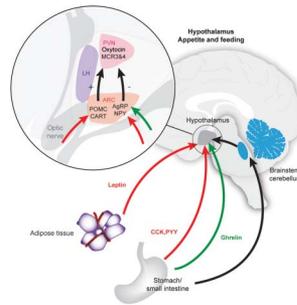
See p. 1276

From editorialists Hershey & Peavy: "The importance of recognizing dementia at an early stage in patients with PD is that cholinesterase inhibitors such as rivastigmine have been shown in randomized clinical trials to be effective in improving cognitive function and in reducing global impairment that is associated with this disease."

See p. 1268

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

Eating behavior in frontotemporal dementia: Peripheral hormones vs hypothalamic pathology



The authors found that eating abnormalities were multifactorial in frontotemporal dementia. Although hypothalamic volumes were preserved in semantic variant primary progressive aphasia, levels of agouti-related peptide were elevated to levels similar to those observed in behavioral variant frontotemporal

dementia. This finding emphasizes the role of this peptide in eating and metabolic changes and provides a treatment target to modify disease progression.

See p. 1310; Comment, p. 1316

VIEWES & REVIEWS

Body mass index, physical activity, and risk of adult meningioma and glioma: A meta-analysis

This meta-analysis summarized the data from 13 epidemiologic studies involving more than 6,000 cases. Results showed that adiposity and physical inactivity were associated with enhanced meningioma risk but were unrelated to glioma. These findings suggest that maintaining energy balance decreases the risk of developing meningioma but has no influence on glioma risk.

See p. 1342

NB: "Seizures as adverse events of antibiotic drugs: A systematic review," see p. 1332. To check out other Views & Reviews, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Video NeuroImage discussing iridodonesis as a cause of recurrent vertigo. This week also includes a Humanities story titled "Don't tell."

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