In Focus

Spotlight on the December 1 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article testing the hypothesis that cerebral amyloid angiopathy is related to Alzheimer dementia and the decline in multiple cognitive systems in older individuals and another determining whether raloxifene improves cognitive function in women with Alzheimer disease. A third article examines whether moderate alcohol intake reduces the risk of ischemic stroke.

ARTICLES

Amyloid burden and sleep blood pressure in amnesic mild cognitive impairment

The authors determined whether cortical β -amyloid deposition was associated with circadian blood pressure profiles and dynamic cerebral blood flow regulation in 40 patients with amnesic mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Patients with attenuated reductions in sleep blood pressure had greater β -amyloid burden in the posterior cingulate and altered dynamic cerebral blood flow regulation.

See p. 1922

From editorialists Seshadri & Moonis: "These intriguing findings, directly linking vascular reactivity and neurodegeneration, need to be replicated in larger samples, but if validated they expand our understanding of vascular contributions to Alzheimer disease and suggest new therapeutic options to reduce the risk of progression from MCI to clinical dementia."

See p. 1918

Sensitivity to acute cerebral ischemic injury in migraineurs: A retrospective case-control study

The authors identified participants with migraine history and measured lesion volumes on diffusion-weighted and perfusion-weighted MRIs obtained within 72 hours of symptom onset. Their findings suggest that a history of migraine, especially with aura, may increase the rate of at-risk tissue loss during acute ischemia, as indicated by a no-mismatch pattern of the 2 imaging studies.

See p. 1945

From editorialists Tietjen & Sacco: "The finding that only 22% of those in the migraine group exhibited no-mismatch on MRI suggests that there are influences other than migraine that predispose to this pattern. Identifying the clinical and genetic factors rendering this sizable subset more vulnerable to ischemia and testing treatments for prevention will be important goals of future investigations."

See p. 1920

Electrophysiologic features of SYT2 mutations causing a treatable neuromuscular syndrome

Mutations in SYT2 cause both an inherited neuropathy and a reversible defect in neuromuscular transmission. Patients showed a unique pattern of electrophysiologic abnormalities and they improved with modulators of acetylcholine release. These findings emphasize the importance of end-plate dysfunction in the pathophysiology of inherited neuropathies and a novel therapeutic strategy.

See p. 1964

Differences in the burden of psychiatric comorbidity in MS vs the general population

The authors studied psychiatric comorbidity (depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia) in multiple sclerosis (MS) using population-based administrative data. The incidence and prevalence of all conditions studied were higher in the MS population than in a matched control population. Their findings suggest a nonspecific effect of MS on psychiatric comorbidity, implying the need for general psychiatric support.

See p. 1972

NB: "Lou Gehrig and the ALS split hand," p. 1995. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Views & Reviews discussing endovascular vs medical management of acute ischemic stroke. This week also includes a Clinical/Scientific Note examining the dramatic worsening of adult-onset X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy after head trauma.

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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