



In Focus

Spotlight on the August 11 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles investigating the temporal relationship between infective endocarditis and stroke and the influence of stroke subtype and motor impairment on contralateral excitability. Another featured article focuses on retinal pathology in idiopathic moyamoya angiopathy detected by optical coherence tomography.

ARTICLES

Health care charges for youth with newly diagnosed epilepsy

Reducing substantial costs incurred in the year following an epilepsy diagnosis is important and timely. Seizure occurrence, more drug side effects, and poorer quality of life (QoL) predict higher health care charges 1 year after diagnosis. Optimizing seizure control, side effects, and QoL may facilitate cost-reduction efforts.

See p. 490

From editorialists Wagner & Berg: "The study by Ryan et al. complements and augments the extant literature to inform clinical practice in the treatment of pediatric epilepsy by proposing that behavioral health integration into epilepsy health care may not only improve QoL but also substantially reduce health care costs."

See p. 486

CIDP diagnostic pitfalls and perception of treatment benefit

This study analyzed patients with a diagnosis of chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) for diagnostic accuracy. Commonly observed errors included liberal interpretation of "atypical" clinical symptoms, equivocal electrophysiologic findings, mild CSF cytoalbuminologic dissociation, and subjective patient-reported perception of benefit following immunotherapy. Utilization of existing CIDP diagnostic criteria and objective indicators of treatment efficacy is a potential solution to avoid CIDP diagnostic pitfalls.

See p. 498

From editorialists Gorson & Gooch: "The proper diagnosis and management of CIDP is essential for patients and the management of increasingly scarce medical resources. As the US health care system continues to evolve towards quality-based care, the use of IVIg and other emerging and expensive immunomodulatory therapies for CIDP will come under greater scrutiny."

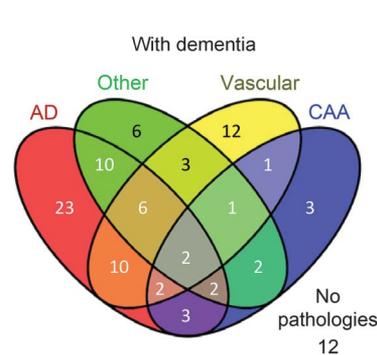
See p. 488

Acute stroke chameleons in a university hospital: Risk factors, circumstances, and outcomes

This review of a prospectively constructed stroke registry showed that strokes may be missed in patients presenting with lower cerebrovascular risk profiles or those with other acute conditions. Patients with stroke chameleons present more often with milder strokes, coma, or fewer focal signs. When confronted with an unusual medical or neurologic presentation, stroke may be the underlying condition.

See p. 505

Mixed pathology is more likely in black than white decedents with Alzheimer dementia Multiple pathologies are common and related to dementia in the oldest-old: The 90+ Study



Black decedents with Alzheimer dementia were more likely to have mixed brain pathologies compared with age-, sex-, education-, and cognition-matched white decedents with Alzheimer dementia. However, in the older population, the presence of multiple pathologies was associated with increased likelihood and severity of dementia. The effect of the

individual pathologies may be additive and synergistic and requires further research.

See p. 528 & p. 535

NB: "What is a reflex? A guide for understanding disorders of consciousness," see p. 543. 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 unilateral magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound pallidotomy for Parkinson disease and how a CSF leak was reopened by vomiting associated with MRI. This week also includes a Humanities poem titled "Caring for Maggie."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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