In Focus

Spotlight on the March 15 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article testing whether urinary LRRK2 phosphorylation predicts parkinsonian phenotypes in G2019S *LRRK2* carriers and another describing the clinical associations of immunoglobulin G that targets metabotropic glutamate receptor 1. A featured article explores the value of NMR and functional assessments for follow-up of ambulatory and nonambulatory patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

ARTICLES

Development and external validation of a prognostic model in newly diagnosed Parkinson disease

The authors developed a prognostic model to predict disease outcomes in individual patients with Parkinson disease. This model allowed prognostication at 5 years from diagnosis using a small set of predictor variables that may be obtained easily by clinicians or research nurses.

See p. 986

From editorialists Chiò & Defazio: "Prognostic models have several important goals, such as determining the best therapeutic approach for each patient; helping patients to determine their personal, familial, and social future; supporting third-party payers in allocating resources; and improving the design of clinical trials. In other words, prognostic scales are one of the elements that should represent the basis of precision medicine."

See p. 982

Depression in ALS in a large self-reporting cohort

This study of almost 1,000 patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) assessed depression and its associations, course, and link to survival after adjusting for other predictors. Depression was associated with initial disease severity but not with motor progression; it was associated with poor survival and quality of life. This finding emphasizes the importance of addressing depression in ALS during therapeutic trials and in clinical practice.

See p. 1031

How best to obtain consent to thrombolysis: Individualized decision-making

Physicians traditionally focus more on diagnoses and treatments than on communicating thrombolytic information to their patients. The authors found that patients' preference for thrombolysis was influenced

by how thrombolytic information was provided to them. More attention from physicians to communication with patients will be extremely beneficial for making informed medical decisions.

See p. 1045

Cost-effectiveness of endovascular thrombectomy in patients with acute ischemic stroke

This study showed that the addition of thrombectomy was cost-effective in patients with acute ischemic stroke. These results indicated that reduced long-term cost for stroke care offsets the high initial cost of thrombectomy and that thrombectomy provides clinical benefits at low costs in a population with a severe health condition.

See p. 1053

NB: "Neurology resident education: Trending skills, confidence, and professional preparation," see p. e112. To check out other Resident & Fellow Education Research submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section. At the end of the issue, check out the Neurolmage discussing bilateral tadpole pupils. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Section Pearls & Oysters titled "Tacrolimus neurotoxicity presenting as an isolated brainstem lesion."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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