In Focus

Spotlight on the April 5 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article examining the effects of comorbidity on initiation of injectable disease-modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis and another outlining the developmental and progressive neurodegenerative features in the atypical form of Chediak-Higashi disease. A featured article focuses on premanifest Huntington disease, with an objective analysis of different speech measures with special emphasis on speech timing of connected speech and nonspeech verbal utterances.

ARTICLES

Sex differences in comorbidity at diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: A population-based study [OPEN](#)

The authors studied the prevalence of comorbidity at diagnosis in patients with multiple sclerosis vs controls using population-based administrative data. Comorbidity was more common than expected in multiple sclerosis, and sex-specific differences were observed. The prevalence of psychiatric comorbidity was particularly high, indicating the need for clinical attention to this issue.

See p. 1279

From editorialists Grant & Riise: "The take-home message to physicians and patients from the findings by Marrie and colleagues, and this editorial, is that many chronic diseases have similar underlying lifestyle risk factors, including low ultraviolet exposure and 25(OH)D concentrations, poor diet leading to obesity, low omega-3 fatty acid intake, and smoking."

See p. 1275

Network dysfunction predicts speech production after left hemisphere stroke

The authors investigated the role of multiple distributed brain networks, which mediate domain-general and task-specific processes during speech production, after aphasic stroke. Speech production was dependent on complex

interactions in widely distributed brain networks, indicating that residual speech production after stroke depended on more than the restoration of local domain-specific functions.

See p. 1296

From editorialist Saling: "In showing that poststroke speech outcome is dependent on coherent fluctuations between networks that are specific to speech production and those that are not, their article unfolds a future prospect of the rational use of neurostimulation to optimize poststroke recovery."

See p. 1277

Risk factors for probable REM sleep behavior disorder: A community-based study

Individuals with probable REM sleep behavior disorder have higher future risk of neurodegenerative diseases. The authors identified several potential risk factors for probable REM sleep behavior disorder, including lower socioeconomic status, lower physical activity level and body mass index, higher low-density lipoprotein level, and diabetes, head injury, and olfactory and taste dysfunction. Further studies are needed.

See p. 1306

Midlife exercise blood pressure, heart rate, and fitness relate to brain volume 2 decades later

Greater midlife fitness may protect against brain atrophy. In 1,094 Framingham study participants, poor fitness and higher blood pressure responses to exercise in midlife (age 40) were associated with smaller MRI brain volumes 2 decades later. This study emphasizes that brain aging is the consequence of behaviors over a lifetime.

See p. 1313

NB: "Brivaracetam add-on for refractory focal epilepsy: A systematic review and meta-analysis," p. 1344. To check out other Views & Reviews, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing open traumatic brain injury by nail gun resulting in a persistent vegetative state and reversible deep brain swelling causing REM behavior disorder. This week also includes a Clinical/Scientific Note titled "Radiotherapy-induced hemichorea."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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