In Focus

Spotlight on the April 19 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article determining the safety and tolerability of mexiletine in treating sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and another evaluating the usefulness of the punctate pattern for the diagnosis of patients with progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. A featured article focuses on longitudinal relationships among biomarkers for Alzheimer disease in asymptomatic middle-aged to older individuals.

ARTICLES

Standardized EEG interpretation accurately predicts prognosis after cardiac arrest [OPEN](#)

Standardization of EEG interpretation is critical because EEG is useful for predicting neurologic outcome after cardiac arrest. In a blinded interpretation of post-cardiac arrest EEGs by 4 international experts, highly malignant patterns predicted poor outcome with no false-positives. EEGs are most useful in combination with other methods for predicting outcome after cardiac arrest.

See p. 1482

From editorialists Britton & Greer: "However, it also remains clear that there are a substantial number of patients in whom the EEG does not provide prognostic clarity, and there is a need for the development of other technologies to assist in determining prognosis so that appropriate levels of care can be determined for these patients."

See p. 1470

Medicare Part D payments for neurologist-prescribed drugs

The authors described neurologists' Medicare Part D prescribing patterns and the potential effect of generic substitutions and price negotiation, which is currently prohibited. Their findings showed that high payment per monthly supply of medication underlies the high total neurology drug payments, which was driven by multiple sclerosis drugs. Lowering drug expenditures by Medicare should focus on drug prices.

See p. 1491

Brain arterial aging and its relationship to Alzheimer dementia

The authors found that arterial aging consisted of progressive arterial dilation with commensurate media thickening, increased prevalence of internal elastic lamina gaps, elastin loss, and concentric intima thickening. Better understanding the relationship between brain arterial aging, flow dynamics, and brain parenchymal physiology may lead to better understanding of Alzheimer pathology.

See p. 1507

Effect of waivers of consent on recruitment in acute stroke trials: A systematic review

Informed consent has been called "the rate-limiting step" of acute stroke clinical trials. In this systematic review, waivers of informed consent were not associated with faster recruitment in traditional trial designs. However, waivers may facilitate some novel emergency trial designs that would not

otherwise be feasible.

See p. 1543

From editorialists Karlawish & Kim: "The value of the Feldman et al. study thus goes well beyond the acute stroke trial context. It reminds us that ethical questions in the conduct of research need to be answered not just with normative arguments but arguments informed by data."

See p. 1472

NB: "Global cerebral edema from hypercapnic respiratory acidosis and response to hyperosmolar therapy," p. 1552. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing radial nerve torsion and fosphenytoin-induced dyskinesias in an infant with Sturge-Weber syndrome. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Section Clinical Reasoning article titled "Proptosis, headache, and fever in a healthy young woman."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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