In Focus

Spotlight on the January 12 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article determining which distinct thalamic regions are associated with gravity perception and another identifying genetic associations with white matter hyperintensities in patients with stroke. Another featured article focuses on resting-state functional connectivity in the salience, sensorimotor, and default mode networks during migraine attacks induced by pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide-38.

ARTICLES

Clinician judgment vs formal scales for predicting intracerebral hemorrhage outcomes

In this study of 121 patients with primary intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH), Spearman rank correlation coefficients for modified Rankin scores from physicians and nurses were compared with the same correlation coefficients for the ICH and FUNC scores. Although the ICH and FUNC scores are useful tools, physician judgment more accurately predicted 3-month outcome after ICH.

See p. 126

Behavioral and cognitive outcomes for clinical trials in children with neurofibromatosis type 1

Outcome measures identified domains of dysfunction in this trial of simvastatin for cognitive deficits and behavioral problems in children with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1). Children with NF1 show distinct deficits in multiple domains, and outcome measures showed weak test-retest correlations, suggesting the need to include reliable outcome measures on a variety of cognitive and behavioral domains in clinical trials.

See p. 154

White and gray matter damage in primary progressive MS: The chicken or the egg?

Forty-seven patients with early primary progressive multiple sclerosis and 18 controls had conventional and magnetization transfer imaging at baseline; 35 patients repeated the protocol

2 years later. The results were consistent with the hypothesis that in early primary progressive multiple sclerosis, cortical damage is a sequela of normal-appearing white matter pathology, which is predicted by abnormalities within white matter lesions.

See p. 170

A white matter tract mediating awareness of speech

In this article, invasive electrical stimulation of a left hemispheric perisylvian fiber tract repeatedly induced complex verbal phenomena. The results may help to localize the region of the brain generating the symptom of verbal auditory hallucinations and indicate that the brain stores retrievable copies of its language commands in a ventral parietofrontal network.

See p. 177

NB: "The pod system: An innovative strategy to reform residency teaching sessions in neurology," see p. e12. 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 NeuroImage discussing syntelencephaly associated with cystic cochleovestibular malformations. This week also includes a Contemporary Issues article titled "Practice improvement requires more than guidelines and quality measures."

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