



## In Focus

### Spotlight on the June 14 Issue

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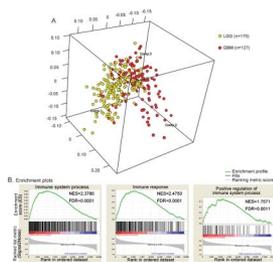


#### Notable in *Neurology*

This issue contains an article that reports a novel autoimmune encephalitis in which the antibodies target neurexin-3 $\alpha$ , a cell adhesion molecule involved in the development and function of synapses, and another that determines quantitative size thresholds for enlargement of the optic nerve, chiasm, and tract in children with neurofibromatosis type 1. A review article provides a 9-point checklist encompassing aspects deemed relevant when reporting quantitative optical coherence tomography studies.

#### ARTICLES

##### **Bioinformatic profiling identifies an immune-related risk signature for glioblastoma**



The authors found an intensive local immune phenotype in glioblastoma compared to lower grade glioma, developing an immune-related risk signature that indicated an enhanced risk of unfavorable prognosis. Its prognostic importance was independent of genetic features and treatment, emphasizing the potential of

immune-related therapy for glioma management.

**See p. 2226**

From editorialists Bashir & Mohile: "The looming question in neuro-oncology today is whether the advent of immunotherapy will help control an uncontrollable disease. The work by Cheng et al. does not answer this question but it brings us one step closer to believing that one day we will be able to exploit the immune system to better treat glioblastoma multiforme."

**See p. 2220**

##### **Postural instability and gait are associated with severity and prognosis of Parkinson disease**

Severity of postural instability and gait difficulty was related to progression of nondopaminergic symptoms of Parkinson disease (PD) and motor complications; however, tremor severity was not. The authors found no indications that patients with predominant tremor symptoms have a more favorable course of PD, indicating that tremor subtype is not a prognostic trait in PD.

**See p. 2243**

##### **Pregnancy outcome following maternal exposure to pregabalin may call for concern**

Data on pregabalin safety during pregnancy are lacking. This study raises a signal for a substantial increase in the risk of major birth defects after first trimester exposure to pregabalin. These findings warrant caution about the prescription of pregabalin to women of childbearing age.

**See p. 2251**

From editorialists Pennell & Meador: "To differentiate whether this risk is attributable to pregabalin itself, these findings need to be replicated in a larger study and in different populations, with similar comparison groups that include factors known to influence major congenital malformation rates (e.g., folate use, prior pregnancy outcomes, and family history)."

**See p. 2224**

##### **Depression in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis**

Patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may present with depressive symptoms before diagnosis. In this study, depression and use of antidepressant drugs were increased among patients with ALS compared to controls. Depressive symptoms may represent cognitive impairment or other nonmotor symptoms in ALS symptomatology or the psychological burden of progressive symptoms along with the devastating diagnosis.

**See p. 2271**

NB: "Degenerative ataxias, from genes to therapies: The 2015 Cotzias Lecture," p. 2284. To check out other AAN Special Articles, point your browser to [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org). At the end of the issue, check out the *NeuroImage* discussing purple hands in multiple system atrophy. This week also includes a *Clinical/Scientific Note* titled "Spinal CSF venous fistula: A treatable etiology for CSF leaks in craniospinal hypovolemia."

Podcasts can be accessed at [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org)

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