



In Focus

Spotlight on the January 26 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article investigating HIV, antiretroviral treatment, and hypertension as stroke risk factors in Malawian adults and another on the genetic contributors to cerebrovascular disease and variation in biomarkers of ischemic stroke. Another featured article focuses on how mutations in *HSPB8* may cause a new phenotype of distal myopathy and motor neuropathy.

ARTICLES

Prevalence of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study

The authors evaluated the frequency of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders and found it in 25%–31% of HIV-positive individuals. However, for the majority of HIV-positive individuals on combination antiretroviral therapy with systemic virus suppression, HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders was not a progressive condition.

See p. 334; Comment p. 339

Overdiagnosis of idiopathic intracranial hypertension

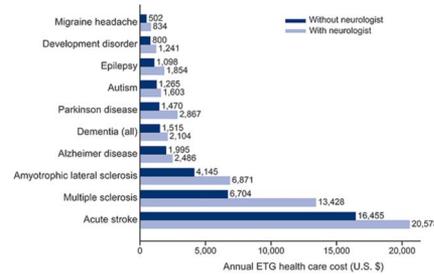
This study identified overdiagnosis of idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) in 39.5% of patients referred with a presumed diagnosis of IIH. Overdiagnosis of IIH prompted unnecessary tests, invasive procedures, and missed diagnoses. The most common errors were inaccurate ophthalmoscopic examination in headache patients and biases in obese young women with primary benign headaches.

See p. 341

From editorialists Galetta and Digre: "Where do we go from here? It is clear that we need multicenter prospective studies to better understand the true frequency of IIH misdiagnosis. Effects of referral bias may be magnified in a single-center study by virtue of practices and other factors unique to a given geographical area. The emergence of medicine might bring neuro-ophthalmologists and other experts in ophthalmology closer to practicing neurologists."

See p. 318

Neurologist ambulatory care, health care utilization, and costs in a large commercial dataset



The authors determined the value of neurologist ambulatory care in chronic neurologic diseases using an administrative claims dataset detailing costs, adverse events, and health

care utilization. Neurologist involvement with care is associated with greater unadjusted allowed payments, but fewer adverse events and less acute care utilization.

See p. 367

From editorialists Jones and Nuwer: "With these observations, Ney et al. have taken an important early step in quantitative measurement of the value our specialty provides at a population level. Studies such as these can be used to encourage policymakers to design appropriate incentives to preserve access to neurologic care."

See p. 320

Safety and immunologic effects of high- vs low-dose cholecalciferol in multiple sclerosis

Vitamin D deficiency is associated with increased risk and severity of multiple sclerosis. Treatment of multiple sclerosis with high-dose vitamin D was safe and related to a reduction of interleukin-17 and other inflammatory markers. The data support an active role of vitamin D supplementation in modulating disease-related immune responses.

See p. 382

NB: "Voice of young neurologists around the world," p. e40. To check out other Global Perspectives, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing bright tongue sign in Pompe disease and the coexistence of ocular neuromyotonia and hemifacial spasm. This week also includes a Humanities poem titled "The Lurching Man."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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