In Focus

Spotlight on the February 16 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article examining clinical and imaging findings of suspected idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus in relation to vascular risk factors and white matter lesions and another investigating quantitative regional distribution and hemispheric asymmetry of TDP-43 inclusions, neurons, and activated microglia in primary progressive aphasia with progranulin mutations. Another featured article focuses on whole-brain morphometry in patients with frontal lobe epilepsy.

ARTICLES

Polygenic risk of ischemic stroke is associated with cognitive ability [OPEN](#)

The authors investigated the correlation between polygenic risk of ischemic stroke and cognitive ability. Their findings indicate that even in the absence of stroke, being at high polygenic risk for ischemic stroke is associated with lower cognitive ability, suggesting that exploring shared genetic etiology between diseases and health-related traits may provide further insight into these diseases.

See p. 611

Association of arterial stiffness with progression of subclinical brain and cognitive disease

Neurocognitive impairment is common. In this community, greater carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity and central pulse pressure were associated with a progression in white matter hyperintensities and cognitive impairment, particularly in older individuals. Arterial stiffness and pressure pulsatility predict neurovascular and neurocognitive decline, and their treatment may improve neurovascular outcomes.

See p. 619

Differences in the role of black race and stroke risk factors for first vs recurrent stroke [📖](#)

Although black patients were at higher risk than their white counterparts for a first stroke, there is little difference in the risk of a second stroke. Because risk factors for preventing a first event may be different from those preventing a recurrent event, it is best not to assume that they play a similar role for first vs recurrent events.

See p. 637

Ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials as a test for myasthenia gravis [📖](#) [📈](#)

Current tests for ocular myasthenia gravis (OMG) have low sensitivity. The authors demonstrated that repetitive stimulation with ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (oVEMP) may reliably detect the characteristic decrement in OMG, thus representing a promising simple, noninvasive

test with good diagnostic accuracy.

See p. 660

From editorialists Prasad & Halmagyi: "Although the technique will benefit from further refinements that increase its sensitivity, the decremental response of the oVEMP already shows promise as a new diagnostic test for OMG."

See p. 590

NB: "Neurology clerkship goals and their effect on learning and satisfaction," see p. 684. To check out other Contemporary Issues: Innovations in Education articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImage discussing tertiary hyperparathyroidism presenting as posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome. This week also includes a Clinical/Scientific Note titled "Salbutamol-responsive fetal acetylcholine receptor inactivation syndrome."

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