In Focus

Spotlight on the October 25 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that characterizes the clinical and MRI features of 2 families with adult-onset dominant leukoencephalopathy and strokes to identify the underlying genetic cause, and another one that evaluates and compares the frequency of hand postures during generalized convulsions in patients with genetic generalized epilepsy, localization-related epilepsy, and nonepileptic attacks. A featured article evaluates the potential development of tolerance to adjunctive clobazam in patients with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

ARTICLES

HIV-associated motor neuron disease: HERV-K activation and response to antiretroviral therapy

Some patients with HIV infection may develop an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis-like syndrome that is associated with the activation of an endogenous retrovirus. Early treatment with combination antiretroviral drugs may reverse or slow the progression of the disease, which parallels a decrease in the levels of the endogenous retrovirus in plasma.

See p. 1756

From editorialists Berger & Power: "Could this observation, if confirmed, be generalizable? Namely, are there individuals who have developed sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis unassociated with HIV infection in whom the disease is driven by HERV-K? This is an intriguing question that will require a great deal more study."

See p. 1750

Physical activity and the incidence of multiple sclerosis

This study addressed whether physical activity is associated with multiple sclerosis in prospective female cohorts. The findings

indicate that physical activity at baseline was weakly associated with lower risk of multiple sclerosis, possibly due to reduced activity resulting from subclinical disease.

See p. 1770

Switching generic antiepileptic drug manufacturer not linked to seizures: A case-crossover study

This study estimated the risk of seizure-related events associated with refilling generic antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) and the effect of switching between different manufacturers. In patients on a generic AED, refilling the same AED was associated with an elevated risk of seizure-related events; however, there was no additional risk switching during that refill to a different manufacturer. This suggests that generic AEDs are reasonable choices.

See p. 1796

From editorialists Krauss and Privitera: "The most rigorous studies to date, including this one, suggest that generic antiseizure medication switching is safe, and reported 'failures' after generic switches are generally not due to failure of the generic product itself to provide adequate blood levels."

See p. 1754

Associations between education and brain structure at age 73 years, adjusted for age 11 IQ

The authors considered whether years of education was protective for the aging brain after taking into account preexisting differences in childhood intelligence. Having more years in full-time education was linked with a thicker brain cortex at 73 years of age, but this was almost entirely accounted for by prior intelligence at age 11.

See p. 1820

NB: "Evidence of association between sleep quality and APOE ε4 in healthy older adults: A pilot study," p. 1836. To check out other Medical Hypothesis articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImage discussing tuberculous optochiasmatic arachnoiditis and vision loss and another one showing a neurolupus patient without carotid stenosis. This week also includes a Humanities poem titled "Wandering the Kennesaw Nursing Home Looking for my Father."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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