In Focus

Spotlight on the December 13 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that compares the efficacy of methotrexate and mycophenolate mofetil in the prevention of relapses in neurosarcoidosis and another article that assesses the prevalence of restless legs syndrome using DSM-5 criteria in determining what was the most appropriate threshold for the frequency and duration of restless leg symptoms. A featured article examines the efficacy of lovastatin on visuospatial learning and attention for treating cognitive and behavioral deficits in children with neurofibromatosis type 1.

ARTICLES

Parental rheumatoid arthritis and childhood epilepsy: A nationwide cohort study

The authors assessed the influence of parental rheumatoid arthritis on risk of epilepsy. Exposure to maternal rheumatoid arthritis was associated with an increased risk of childhood epilepsy, while exposure to paternal rheumatoid arthritis was not, which indicates that changes in the intrauterine environment may play a role.

See p. 2510

From editorialists Dale & Brenton: "While therapies to treat maternal RA could conceivably be an alternative exposure factor that increases epilepsy risk, the fact that mothers with preclinical RA (presumably not taking immune-modulating medications) had offspring with an increased risk of epilepsy makes this less plausible. It is still conceivable that genetic factors are involved; however, these genetic vulnerabilities may be immunologic rather than neurologic."

See p. 2502

Ischemic stroke subtypes and migraine with visual aura in the ARIC study

This study investigated the association among migraine, ischemic stroke, and stroke subtypes. In participants with migraine with visual aura in later life, increased risk of cardioembolic stroke was observed. Migraine with visual aura was linked to increased stroke risk, while migraine without visual aura was not, with these results more specific to older migraineurs.

See p. 2527

From editorialists Sposato & Peterlin: "Despite the questions remaining, the current findings provide exciting evidence that cardioembolic events may play an important role in the association between migraine with aura and ischemic stroke, and provides important insight and direction for future research."

See p. 2504

Medulla oblongata damage and cardiac autonomic dysfunction in Parkinson disease

This study provided evidence that medulla oblongata damage underlies cardiac sympathetic and vagal balance and respiratory dysfunction in patients with Parkinson disease. This suggests that diffusion MRI may be used as a biomarker of medulla oblongata damage that correlates with autonomic dysfunction, a frequent nonmotor symptom in patients with Parkinson disease.

See p. 2540; Editorial, p. 2506

Genetically decreased vitamin D and risk of Alzheimer disease

This article demonstrates that a lifetime of genetically lowered vitamin D level increases risk of Alzheimer disease. Bias due to confounding and reverse causation was reduced by using Mendelian randomization in 54,162 individuals. These results provide a strong rationale to test whether vitamin D supplementation decreases the incidence of Alzheimer disease.

See p. 2567

NB: "Home is where the heart is," see p. e288. To check out other Resident & Fellow Right Brain 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 false ictal-appearing EEG from a frontal sinus pseudomeningocele and another about a case of neurosarcoidosis. This week also includes a Humanities reflection titled "Leaving no man's land."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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