In Focus
Spotlight on the August 9 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that investigates type 2 diabetes mellitus as a risk factor for brain atrophy and associated brain glucose hypometabolism in older adults with cognitive impairment and another that evaluates whether the use of multiphase CT angiography improves interrater agreement for intracranial occlusion detection between stroke neurology trainees and an expert neuroradiologist. A featured article examines the attributes of quantitative strength testing in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis clinical trials.

ARTICLES

Impaired self-agency in functional movement disorders: A resting-state fMRI study

This study provides important evidence supporting abnormalities in functional connectivity in patients with functional movement disorders. Using resting-state fMRI, the authors demonstrated decreased functional connectivity between the right temporoparietal junction and regions involved in bilateral sensorimotor processing and integration. Deficits in resting-state functional connectivity between these 2 regions may contribute to the impaired self-agency in these patients.

See p. 564, Editorial p. 554

Clinical manifestations of intermediate allele carriers in Huntington disease

This study documents the clinical profile and progression of Huntington disease signs in a sample with intermediate length alleles. Older participants with intermediate alleles had greater chorea and greater cognitive decline compared to controls. This finding suggests that intermediate alleles may confer a late-onset abnormal motor and cognitive phenotype and be of critical relevance in genetic counseling.

See p. 571

From editorialists Morrison and Benito-León: “We can only speculate on the interaction with environmental and other modifier genes, and although older patients in this study with intermediate alleles have clinically meaningful motor abnormalities, this is more marked in older patients with larger intermediate alleles, suggesting a gradient with both age and repeat size.”

See p. 556

Gray matter maturation and cognition in children with different APOE ε genotypes

The authors determined whether children with the 6 different APOE ε genotypes show differences in gray matter maturation. Children with APOE ε2 or APOE ε4 allele showed altered brain MRI morphometry and poorer cognition compared to APOE ε3 carriers. APOE ε genotyping may identify children who could benefit from early interventions or preventive measures for brain injury.

See p. 585

From editorialist Rebecca Knickmeyer: “This perspective is likely germane to a number of neuropsychiatric disorders and should push investigators to look ever earlier to the initiation of relevant neurodevelopmental processes and what might tip the balance away from disease toward healthier outcomes.”

See p. 558

Value of patient-reported symptoms in the diagnosis of transient loss of consciousness

This study explores the diagnostic potential of a comprehensive questionnaire focusing on transient loss of consciousness (TLOC)-associated symptoms. TLOC experience profiles correctly classify 9 out of 10 patients into the categories syncope vs seizures (epileptic or nonepileptic) and 8 out of 10 into the categories epilepsy vs psychogenic nonepileptic seizures.

See p. 625

From editorialists Morrison and Benito-León: “We can only speculate on the interaction with environmental and other modifier genes, and although older patients in this study with intermediate alleles have clinically meaningful motor abnormalities, this is more marked in older patients with larger intermediate alleles, suggesting a gradient with both age and repeat size.”

See p. 556

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

NB: “Picturing a neuroanatomical vision in a cave,” see p. 641. To check out other Visions features, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Notes discussing multiple sequential likely antibody-associated syndromes with a recurrent mutated neuroblastoma and spontaneous limb withdrawal heralding hyperacute stroke. This week also includes a Humanities piece titled “Failure.”

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