In Focus

Spotlight on the March 14 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that explores the prognostic value of clinical and mutational findings in infants with SCN1A mutations, and another that determines whether higher lateral frontal cortex connectivity is a functional substrate of cognitive reserve that helps maintain episodic memory in early-stage Alzheimer disease. A featured Historical Neurology article analyzes the research of neuropathologist Hans Jacob and his connection to unethical Nazi party practices.

ARTICLES

Investigations in GABA_A receptor antibody-associated encephalitis

In this study of 26 patients, children, compared with adults, were more likely to have seizures and movement

disorders, and less likely to have a tumor. The authors found that frequent multifocal cortical-subcortical MRI abnormalities are suggestive of anti-GABA_A receptor encephalitis.

See p. 1012

From editorialists Waters and Irani: "The field should now carefully consider whether the discovery of new autoantibody targets in small numbers of patients is a worthwhile venture. Discovery of this antibody has taught us to consider this condition in patients with seizures, plus distinctive MRI abnormalities that are not seen in other autoimmune encephalopathies."

See p. 1010

Vesicular acetylcholine transporter defect underlies devastating congenital myasthenia syndrome

Genetic diagnosis of congenital myasthenia is definitive, may suggest specific treatment, and enables genetic counseling to prevent recurrence. This study revealed that lack of the vesicular acetylcholine transporter (VAChT) causes ventilator-dependent respiratory failure and severe arthrogryposis. VAChT presynaptic defects join other neuromuscular junction deficiencies as a cause of congenital myasthenia.

See p. 1021

Moderators and predictors of response to behavior therapy for tics in Tourette syndrome

The authors tested whether concomitant tic-suppressing medication or co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses moderate response to comprehensive behavioral intervention (CBIT) for tics in patients with Tourette syndrome. The difference between study treatments was greater for patients not on tic-suppressing medication, but those on tic medication also improved after CBIT. CBIT is effective for reducing tics across a full range of patients with Tourette syndrome.

See p. 1029

Postmenopausal hormone therapy and Alzheimer disease: A prospective cohort study

Postmenopausal hormone therapy was not associated with Alzheimer disease in this 20-year follow-up study based on self-reported and register-ascertained exposure and data on lifestyle and socioeconomic factors. However, the risk-benefit balance of postmenopausal hormone therapy use should be considered.

See p. 1062

NB: "Wild-type TTR neuropathy with cardiomyopathy presenting with burning feet," p. 1101. To check out other NeurolImages, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Note discussing the detection of elevated ¹⁸F-AV-1451 PET tracer uptake in incidental imaging, and another on myasthenia gravis following Zika virus infection. This week also includes a Reflections essay titled "Future selves."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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