In Focus

Spotlight on the March 21 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article identifying a combination of variables that predict progression of pure autonomic failure to more threatening synucleinopathies, and another evaluating urinary neurotrophin receptor p75 extracellular domain (p75^{ECD}) levels as prognostic biomarkers in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. A featured article investigates the effects of topiramate, zonisamide, and levetiracetam on cognitive network activations in focal epilepsy.

ARTICLES

Low cancer prevalence in polyglutamine expansion diseases

This prospective study revealed low cancer incidence in patients with Huntington disease and spinocerebellar ataxias, except for skin cancers. There was no correlation between cancer and CAG repeat size or cancer risk factors. These results implicate a link between tumorigenesis and polyglutamine diseases, especially skin cancers, and require further exploration.

See p. 1114

From editorialists Tallaksen and Müller: "The study by Coarelli et al. strongly suggests a link between neurodegeneration and cancer. This link now needs to be experimentally explored."

See p. 1106

Reduced cognitive function in patients with Parkinson disease and obstructive sleep apnea

In this study, the authors found an association between obstructive sleep apnea and cognitive dysfunction in patients with Parkinson disease. Performing sleep studies on patients with Parkinson disease can identify whether obstructive sleep apnea is a contributing cause to cognitive dysfunction, and its treatment may have beneficial effects on cognition.

See p. 1120

No evidence of beneficial effects of plasmapheresis in natalizumab-associated PML

The authors provide evidence on the effectiveness of plasmapheresis (PLEX) in natalizumab-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (NTZ-PML). This retrospective study showed no superiority of PLEX in improving clinical outcome and survival in treated vs nontreated NTZ-PML. Considering the risk and cost of PLEX, these results should limit its use in NTZ-PML.

See p. 1144

From editorialists Tyler and Vollmer: "The current study reminds us that benefits of PLEX in NTZ-PML are conjectural, not proven, and will remain so until real data on efficacy or lack thereof are available."

See p. 1108

Prolonged sleep duration as a marker of early neurodegeneration predicting incident dementia

Participants of the Framingham Heart Study who consistently slept over 9 hours each night had double the risk of developing dementia in 10 years as compared to participants who slept

for 6–9 hours. Prolonged sleep may be a marker for early neurodegeneration and an indication for detailed cognitive assessment and monitoring.

See p. 1172

NB: "Natalizumab-associated PML: Challenges with incidence, resulting risk, and risk stratification," p. 1197. To check out other Views & Reviews articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the *NeuroImage* discussing the microstructure of internal carotid blood blister aneurysms. This week also includes a Pearls & Oysters article titled "Asymmetric meningeal involvement is a common feature of rheumatoid meningitis."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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