



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 28 issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that examines the prevalence, molecular cause, and clinical presentation of hereditary motor neuropathies, and another that suggests callosal volume loss may contribute to clinical manifestations of cognitive impairment in Parkinson disease. A featured Views & Reviews article discusses the clinical implications of the melanopsin system.

ARTICLES

Fast multiple sclerosis progression in North Africans: Both genetics and environment matter

This study showed that multiple sclerosis disability progression, compared among North African (NA) and Caucasian patients living in France, was more severe for those with NA ethnicity. The authors identified the severity in NA immigrants, especially for the second generation. This demonstrates that, in addition to genetic factors, environmental factors influence disability progression.

See p. 1218

From editorialists Weinshenker and Lucas: "Migrant studies are a powerful way to dissect issues of race vs place, but, as noted, there are a myriad of potential confounders, some of which are difficult to control."

See p. 1214

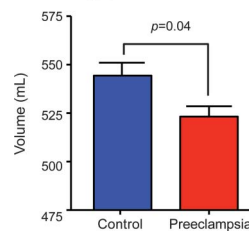
Nonpainful remote electrical stimulation alleviates episodic migraine pain

The authors illustrate effective nonpharmacologic episodic treatment to reduce migraine pain. This randomized double-blind sham-controlled study showed that nonpainful electric skin stimulation given early during migraine attacks can achieve pain relief similar to triptans without side effects. Endogenous analgesia systems can be utilized for treatment of pain.

See p. 1250

Long-term cerebral white and gray matter changes after preeclampsia

A. Cortical gray matter volume



Continued cerebral damage in young mothers after preeclampsia suggests a need for intensified risk factor management. Advanced voxel-based analyses of white and gray matter showed increasing temporal lobe changes between 5 and 10 years after preeclamptic, but not normotensive, pregnancies. Cerebrovascular disease prevention may need to start early after preeclamptic pregnancies.

See p. 1256

From editorialists Cipolla and Biller: "This study, together with others demonstrating increased CVD risk in women with a history of preeclampsia, suggests that more aggressive interventions may be useful to prevent cumulative brain damage."

See p. 1216

Differentiating cognitive impairment due to corticobasal degeneration and Alzheimer disease

Establishing the diagnosis of corticobasal degeneration (CBD) in patients presenting with cognitive complaints is challenging. The emergence of ≥ 3 discriminating clinical features reliably distinguishes prospectively followed patients with CBD presenting with cognitive complaints from those with Alzheimer disease. Widely available clinical tools may be applied to improve the antemortem diagnosis of CBD.

See p. 1273

NB: "Emerging Subspecialties in Neurology: Headache medicine," p. e122. To check out other Resident & Fellow Emerging Subspecialties in Neurology articles, 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 Clinical/Scientific Note discussing the use of BRAF and MEK inhibitors for refractory anaplastic pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma. This week also includes a Reflections poem titled "Recovering."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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