In Focus

Spotlight on the April 11 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that investigates the relationship of admission hyperglycemia and poststroke infections in ischemic stroke and another that determines whether decline in cued recall is observable in the preclinical stage of Alzheimer disease. A featured article identifies mutations in noncoding DNA as a major cause of X-linked Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1.

ARTICLES

Diverging white matter trajectories in children after traumatic brain injury: The RAPBI study

The authors examined longitudinal trajectories of white matter organization over a period of 12 months in pediatric patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The resulting evidence suggests a possible biomarker of impaired callosal organization within the first months after injury leading to the potential of widespread continuing and progressive degeneration.

See p. 1392

From editorialists Guerriero & Schlaggar: "...Dennis and colleagues have taken an important step forward to identifying a functional biomarker that may predict the trajectory of TBI recovery. Success in confirming interhemispheric transfer time as a biomarker for TBI, either in isolation or in combination with other quantifiable parameters, would be transformative for the field."

See p. 1386

Astroglial activation and altered amyloid metabolism in human repetitive concussion

CSF analysis of biomarkers related to neuronal injury could be used to identify susceptibility to postconcussion syndrome (PCS) following repetitive concussions. This article illustrates the association of PCS with CSF signs of inflammation and altered synaptic activity. The examination of CSF biomarkers might increase accurate prediction of progressive neurodegeneration or chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

See p. 1400

Dopamine transporter imaging does not predict the number of nigral neurons in Parkinson disease

Brain dopamine transporter imaging is commonly used in Parkinson disease diagnostics. Using postmortem neuropathologic confirmation, this study determined that striatal dopamine transporter binding is not associated with loss of dopamine-producing neurons in the substantia nigra. Therefore, dopamine transporter imaging does not reflect the key nigral pathologic event in Parkinson disease.

See p. 1461

From editorialists Takeda & Perlmutter: "The critical lesson is that careful validation of each application of an imaging tool can help us avoid ambiguous interpretation of subsequent study results."

See p. 1388

ED misdiagnosis of cerebrovascular events in the era of modern neuroimaging: A meta-analysis

Through systematic review, approximately 9% of strokes were found missed at initial emergency department presentation. The authors estimated >100,000 missed strokes per year in the United States alone. Patients with milder, nonspecific, or transient symptoms had higher rates of missed strokes, suggesting misdiagnoses related to symptom-specific factors.

See p. 1468, Editorial 1390

NB: "Loan forgiveness options for young neurologists: Current landscape and practice implications," p. e153. To check out other Resident & Fellow Opinion and Special 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 early-onset head titubation in a child with Poretti-Boltshauser syndrome. This week also includes a Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities piece titled "The 9 o'clock patient."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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