In Focus

Spotlight on the April 18 issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that investigates the role of CSF biomarkers in predicting progression of dopa-resistant gait impairments in Parkinson disease and another that illustrates how stroke engenders global alterations of lesion-spared network architecture over time. A featured article assesses the feasibility and accuracy of telemedical concussion evaluations for real-time sideline concussion assessment during athletic events.

ARTICLES

Predictive markers for early conversion of iRBD to neurodegenerative synucleinopathy diseases

This study elucidates the value of clinical assessment and dopamine transporter (DAT) uptake in predicting idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder (iRBD) conversion to neurodegenerative synucleinopathy

diseases. The authors found that autonomic disturbances and DAT uptake deficiency could predict conversion. Patients with iRBD with higher scores on nonmotor and autonomic symptom questionnaires more frequently converted to neurodegenerative synucleinopathy disease.

See p. 1493

From editorialists Postuma & Trenkwalder: "This is an important confirmatory study of the high risk of neurodegeneration in RBD and of the ability to stratify patients with polysomnography-confirmed RBD for clinical trials of neuroprotective agents."

See p. 1486

High hypothetical interest in physician-assisted death in multiple sclerosis

The authors surveyed 7,534 individuals with multiple sclerosis regarding physician-assisted death (PAD). When presented with hypothetical situations, such as unbearable pain, a large proportion of patients responded that they would consider PAD. Depression strongly correlated with PAD consideration, emphasizing the importance of diagnosing and treating depression.

See p. 1528

From editorialists Bernat & McQuillen: "Our Hippocratic duties require us to take affirmative steps to encourage our chronically and terminally ill patients to continue living, to help them identify sources of meaning in their lives, to assist their rehabilitation, and to help palliate their pain, anxiety, depression, and suffering."

See p. 1488

Intracranial atherosclerosis and dementia: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study

Intracranial atherosclerotic disease (ICAD) may have an important role in detecting individuals at risk for developing mild cognitive impairment or dementia. The authors identified ICAD in a community-based sample and found that dementia was associated with plaque location, number of plaque territories, and percent stenosis. ICAD identification could lead to preventive strategies for dementia.

See p. 1556

Physical activity and hippocampal volume in middle-aged patients with type 1 diabetes

Childhood-onset type 1 diabetes negatively affects cerebral gray matter volume, with effects detectable shortly after diagnosis. Neuroimaging results demonstrated that walking 6 days/week is related to larger hippocampi in middle-aged adults with type 1 diabetes, and might counteract the estimated 1% per year hippocampal volume decline in adults aged 55 and older.

See p. 1564

NB: "Maneuvers to elicit opsoclonus in opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome," p. e166. To check out other Resident & Fellow Teaching Video Neurolmages, 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 Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning discussing pediatric delayed motor milestones and ptosis. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Teaching Neurolmages titled "Acute Parinaud syndrome."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

Neurology®

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Neurology 2017;88:1485

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003836

This information is current as of April 17, 2017

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