Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that assesses frequency of MRI utilization and predictors of MRI performance in patients with TIA, and another that examines the triggering causes for inadequate neuromuscular regulation of posture and subjective imbalance in patients with phobic postural vertigo. A featured article investigates whether brain total sodium accumulation assessed by $^{23}$Na MRI was associated with cognitive deficit in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

ARTICLES

Endovascular treatment improves cognition after stroke: A secondary analysis of REVASCAT trial

The authors investigated the effect of endovascular treatment on cognitive outcomes after stroke. Patients treated with thrombectomy showed better cognitive function than patients assigned to best medical treatment alone, illustrating that thrombectomy benefits, so far only affecting disability and health-related quality of life, also encompass the cognitive domain.

See p. 259

Disparities and guideline adherence in drugs of abuse screening in intracerebral hemorrhage

Sympathomimetic drugs of abuse are an important potential etiology for intracerebral hemorrhage. In this retrospective study, the authors found racial disparities in testing and low overall rates of testing for drugs of abuse. These findings suggest the need for improved systems of care in intracerebral hemorrhage.

See p. 252

Transcranial direct current stimulation for children with perinatal stroke and hemiparesis

In this randomized controlled trial, the addition of transcranial direct current stimulation to intensive therapy in children with perinatal stroke and hemiparetic cerebral palsy led to larger gains in subjective, but not objective, performance measures. Continuation of noninvasive brain stimulation trials in children has the potential to enhance function.

See p. 259

Parallel recovery of consciousness and sleep in acute traumatic brain injury

Sleep-wake disturbances, often attributed to medication and environment, can be caused by traumatic brain injury (TBI). The authors found that recovery of consciousness and higher cognitive functions parallels improvements in the sleep-wake cycle. Assessment of the sleep-wake cycle in acute TBI may be useful for monitoring patient evolution and recovery.

See p. 268

From editorialists Soddu & Bassetti: “The assessment of the relationship between sleep and cognition in patients with brain damage may improve our understanding of the mechanisms involved in functional recovery, and may disclose potential new targets to promote it.”

See p. 226

NB: “De novo formation of a symptomatic arachnoid cyst in an adult,” see p. 331. To check out other NeurolImages, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Note discussing myoclonia continua and how it needs to be distinguished from epilepsia partialis continua. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning article titled “Sudden-onset pulsatile headache in a previously healthy young man.”
Spotlight on the January 17 Issue
Robert A. Gross
*Neurology* 2017;88;223
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003514

This information is current as of January 16, 2017

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