In Focus

Spotlight on the January 24 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that examines the prevalence rates of insomnia subtypes in patients with early Parkinson disease and another that explores phenotype-genotype correlations in oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy. A featured article investigates the relationship between risk factor control and patient outcome in the Stenting vs Aggressive Medical Management for Preventing Recurrent Stroke in Intracranial Stenosis (SAMMPRIS) trial.

ARTICLES

Dose-dependent progression of parkinsonism in manganese-exposed welders

Parkinsonism in workers exposed to manganese, such as from welding fumes, may progressively worsen, consistent with neurodegeneration. Movement disorders specialists followed nearly 400 manganese-exposed workers and observed greater progression of parkinsonism with cumulative manganese exposure. Current occupational exposure limits for manganese are likely insufficient to protect worker health.

See p. 344

From editorialists Ratner & Fitzgerald: "This report provides evidence for a dose-response relationship between cumulative exposure to manganese and symptom progression in a longitudinal study of actively exposed workers, consistent with previous reports."

See p. 338

Bortezomib for treatment of therapy-refractory anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis

The authors investigated therapeutic effects of the plasma cell-depleting proteasome inhibitor bortezomib (BTZ) in therapy-refractory anti-NMDA receptor (NMDAR) encephalitis. BTZ induced clinical improvement, or disease remission, in all treated patients associated with NMDAR antibody titer decline, with an acceptable safety profile. BTZ is a promising treatment option for NMDAR encephalitis.

See p. 366

From editorialists Rüegg & Irani: "The foray into novel immunotherapies by Scheibe et al. might help future trials evaluate clinical and biomarker-based outcomes, and to better understand whether earlier use of first- and second-line treatment may abolish the need for BTZ, or whether earlier use of BTZ would benefit patients."

See p. 340

Long-term cortisol measures predict Alzheimer disease risk

Using a prospective longitudinal design, the authors explored whether cortisol dysregulation was related to Alzheimer disease risk. Their findings indicated that cortisol dysregulation, as manifested by high urinary free cortisol/creatinine ratios and high urinary free cortisol/creatinine variability, may modulate the clinical expression, or be a preclinical marker, of Alzheimer disease.

See p. 371

Refractory status epilepticus in children with and without prior epilepsy or status epilepticus

This prospective observational descriptive study established that time to treatment in children with refractory convulsive status epilepticus (SE) is shorter in patients with a history of SE, but not in patients with a history of

epilepsy. Emphasizing the time-sensitive nature of SE may reduce time to treatment in patients with epilepsy.

See p. 386

NB: "Practice guideline: Use of fMRI in the presurgical evaluation of patients with epilepsy," p. 395. To check out other AAN Special Articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Views & Reviews discussing the use of MRI to measure brain atrophy in multiple sclerosis. This week also includes a Clinical/Scientific Note titled "Expanding the spectrum of congenital myopathy linked to recessive mutations in SCN4A."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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