



In Focus

Spotlight on the January 31 Issue

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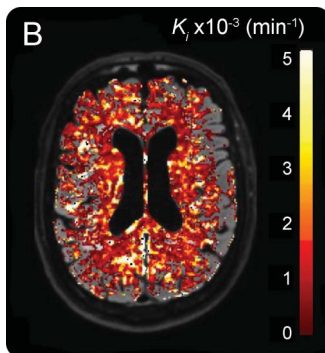


Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that investigates Mediterranean diet and resulting changes in brain structure in older age and another that explores the association between sleep and cognitive impairment. A featured article establishes sarcoplasmic myxovirus resistance A expression as a marker of dermatomyositis.

ARTICLES

Blood-brain barrier leakage is more widespread in patients with cerebral small vessel disease



Insight into the role of blood-brain barrier (BBB) leakage in cerebral small vessel disease (cSVD) provides better pathophysiologic understanding. Using dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI and pharmacokinetic modeling, patients with cSVD had more widespread BBB leakage than controls. This diffuse, widespread, yet subtle leakage reflects the

generalized disturbed endothelial function in cSVD.

See p. 426

From editorialists Hainsworth & Fisher: "Any unified model or fully developed theory linking white matter hyperintensities, microinfarcts, and cerebral microbleeds will need to incorporate conceptually a dysfunctional BBB."

See p. 420

Progressive rural-urban disparity in acute stroke care

Using national data, the authors identified that rural Americans have not benefited equally from improved acute stroke care or changes in acute stroke care infrastructure. The benefits of stroke center care are undeniable; moderating geographic disparities in stroke care will be paramount in order to reduce the national burden of cerebrovascular disease.

See p. 441

From editorialists Leira et al.: "We need to eliminate the growing geographic disparities in acute stroke treatment. This will require acknowledging rural stroke patients as an underserved minority that requires a comprehensive approach in multiple fronts, including a more equitable distribution of stroke treatment facilities, human expertise, and clinical trials."

See p. 422

Olfaction and risk of dementia in a biracial cohort of older adults

In this prospective study of community-dwelling black and white older adults without dementia, odor identification deficits were associated with an increased risk of developing dementia over a decade later. Olfactory testing proved to be a simple, inexpensive, and highly sensitive marker of dementia risk, even in diverse populations.

See p. 456

Methylphenidate, cognition, and epilepsy: A double-blind, placebo-controlled, single-dose study

Cognitive comorbidities are extremely common in patients with epilepsy, and no well-validated treatments exist. This double-blind single-dose study compared placebo against both 10 and 20 mg doses and found that both active doses were superior on measures of attention, processing speed, and memory. Methylphenidate may improve cognition in patients with epilepsy.

See p. 470

NB: "A 35-year-old woman with hyperstartling, stiffness, and accidental falls: A startling diagnosis," p. e38. To check out other Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning 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 NeuroImage discussing the use of digital subtraction angiography for diagnosis upon MRI-raised suspicion of infratentorial dural arteriovenous fistula. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Mystery Case titled "Acute hydrocephalus cause by radiographically occult fourth ventricular outlet obstruction."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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