In Focus

Spotlight on the February 28 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that associates serum neurofilament with brain atrophy progression and early multiple sclerosis disability, and another that describes impairment of antisaccade latencies in patients with Parkinson disease, suggesting it may be a marker correlated with impaired release of an anticipatory postural program. A featured article analyses the effect of previous antiplatelet and vitamin K antagonist treatments on outcome in patients with primary intracerebral hemorrhage.

ARTICLES

Metabolomic biomarkers as strong correlates of Parkinson disease progression

A. 15 markers

Using ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography linked to gas chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry, the authors measured concentrations of small-molecule constituents of plasma and CSF from unmedicated, mildly affected patients with Parkinson disease (PD). Metabolomic plasma profiling yielded strong prediction of progression and offered biomarkers that may provide new insights into PD pathogenesis.

See p. 862

Predictors of incident epilepsy in older adults: The Cardiovascular Health Study

Population-based data on epilepsy burden among older adults are limited. The authors analyzed Cardiovascular Health Study and Medicare data, finding that epilepsy in older adults was common: black adults, very old adults, and patients with history of stroke had higher risk of incident epilepsy. Racial disparity in incidence of epilepsy remains unexplained.

See p. 870

Symptoms from repeated intentional and unintentional head impact in soccer players

Awareness of the risks of heading allows clinicians to assess and advise patients who report symptoms or express concerns regarding experiences in soccer play. The authors determined that heading and collision are independently related to and frequently associated with CNS symptoms, occurring in 20% of players over a 2-week observation.

See p. 901

From editorialists Lingsma and Maas: "To date, headings have not received much attention in consensus statements on concussion in sports. Although the current study does not provide evidence to determine whether there is a long-term consequence of heading, it stresses the need to put heading in soccer on the international research and policy agenda."

See p. 822

Substance abuse may hasten motor onset of Huntington disease: Evaluating the Enroll-HD database

The authors utilized the Enroll-HD database and found that patients with Huntington disease (HD) who abused substances had earlier ages at motor onset compared to patients who never abused substances. These findings demonstrated that environmental factors can change the course of HD, opening the possibility of future disease-modifying therapies.

See p. 909

NB: "Spinal meningeal diverticula, spontaneous intracranial hypotension, and superficial siderosis," p. 916. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the *NeuroImage* discussing bilateral peroneal palsies due to fabellae and the Resident & Fellow Teaching *NeuroImage* on acute ischemic stroke manifestation. This week also includes an online-only Reflections titled "Impersistence of memory."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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