In Focus

Spotlight on the September 19 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that compares the risks and benefits of vertebral angioplasty and stenting with best medical treatment alone for symptomatic vertebral artery stenosis and another that suggests neuropsychological assessment, T1-weighted MRI, and diffusion tensor imaging might help identify early biomarkers in the presymptomatic stage of frontotemporal dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. A featured Views & Reviews examines causal claims of medication overuse headache for patients with frequent headache.

ARTICLES

Sleep architecture and the risk of incident dementia in the community

The authors identified a correlation between lower REM sleep in Framingham Heart Study participants and a higher risk of incident dementia and clinical Alzheimer disease. Each percent reduction in REM sleep corresponded to a 9% increase in dementia risk. These findings implicate REM sleep mechanisms with future dementia.

See p. 1244

Effect of simvastatin on CSF Alzheimer disease biomarkers in cognitively normal adults

This 12-month randomized placebo-controlled trial of simvastatin in cognitively normal adults, using CSF Alzheimer disease (AD) biomarkers as primary outcome measures, showed that high serum low-density lipoprotein predicts simvastatin-related reductions in CSF p-tau₁₈₁. Potential disease-modifying effects of simvastatin on AD should be further investigated in persons with hypercholesterolemia.

See p. 1251

MRI substrates of sustained attention system and cognitive impairment in pediatric MS patients

This article emphasizes the importance of cognitive evaluation in pediatric patients with multiple sclerosis. By applying MRI techniques, the authors identified dysfunctional interactions between key brain areas

as potential substrates of cognitive impairment. Potential targets and monitoring measures for tailored rehabilitative treatments may counteract consequences of disease onset during developmental age.

See p. 1265

A case-control study of hormonal exposures as etiologic factors for ALS in women: Euro-MOTOR

Past oral contraceptive use may reduce the risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in women. In this study, the history of oral contraceptive use had an odds ratio of 0.65 (95% confidence interval 0.51-0.84) among women from 3 European countries. The results indicated that life-course hormonal factors might be important etiologic factors in ALS.

See p. 1283

NB: "Tetrabenazine and subthalamic stimulation in graft-induced dyskinesias," p. 1305. To check out Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning article discussing progressive lethargy and spasticity in a 15-month-old boy, and another on a tumefactive lesion in a woman with systemic lupus erythematosus. This week also includes a NeuroImage titled "Optical coherence tomography angiography in pituitary tumor."

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