In Focus

Spotlight on the October 24 issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that investigates whether common genetic variants in familial cerebral small vessel disease confer risk of lacunar ischemic stroke and deep intracerebral hemorrhage and another that associates the synaptic protein neurogranin with age-related cognitive decline in adults without dementia. A featured article examines the effect of caffeine on objective motor scores in Parkinson disease.

ARTICLES

Brain network connectivity differs in early-onset neurodegenerative dementia [OPEN](#)

Connectomics may aid clinical diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer disease and behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia. The authors investigated functional brain network architecture to provide insight into disease-specific variations that could aid differential diagnosis in patients with neurodegenerative dementias.

See p. 1764

From editorialist Bede: "Filippi et al. explore 2 main themes, both of which have pragmatic implications to clinical neurology; one is the long-awaited transition from qualitative image interpretation to quantitative imaging and the other is a shift from evaluating focal pathology to the assessment of network integrity."

See p. 1758

Association of metabolic syndrome and change in Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale scores

Faster progression of Parkinson disease is associated with metabolic syndrome. Patients with Parkinson disease meeting adjusted criteria for metabolic syndrome experienced greater increase in total Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale scores over time, mainly due to increased motor scores, compared to patients without metabolic syndrome. Treatment of metabolic syndrome may slow progression of Parkinson disease.

See p. 1789

From editorialists Hedera and Davis: "The role of neurologists in PD treatment is ever increasing and we moved from the treatment of movement disorder only to a complex management of both motor and multiple nonmotor symptoms. The emerging data support the fact that we need to consistently expand our roles to include coaching of lifestyle changes and active management of various features of metabolic syndrome if present."

See p. 1760

Disparate effects of training on brain activation in Parkinson disease

Treadmill exercise, combined with virtual reality simulations of encountering obstacles, modified brain activation patterns in patients with Parkinson disease. Motor-cognitive intervention with virtual reality produced differing regional activation vs treadmill running alone, and may help reduce falls and enhance functional ability.

See p. 1804, Editorial 1762

UFM1 founder mutation in the Roma population causes recessive variant of H-ABC [OPEN](#)

Exome sequencing revealed that *UFM1* mutations cause hypomyelination with atrophy of the basal ganglia and cerebellum (H-ABC) in the Roma population. MRI shows distinctive caudate nucleus abnormalities. This study enables better clinical and genetic counseling, prenatal testing, and the option of carrier testing in populations with a high carrier frequency.

See p. 1821

NB: "A common cause for Phelan-McDermid syndrome and neurofibromatosis type 2: One ring to bind them," p. e205. To check out other Resident & Fellow Section 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 involuntary head movement in a patient with oscillopsia and generalized ataxia and another on pilocytic astrocytoma with anaplasia originating from the optic chiasma. This week also includes a Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities poem titled "Senses."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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