In Focus

Spotlight on the November 28 issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that details the assessment of whether concomitant disease at multiple sclerosis diagnosis is associated with treatment persistence and another that illustrates baseline clinical and regional MRI features that could help improve prognostic estimates of the rate of decline in patients with progressive apraxia of speech. A featured Special Article is an update to the American Academy of Neurology guideline on diagnostic utility of cervical and ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials.

ARTICLES

Monitoring disease activity in multiple sclerosis using serum neurofilament light protein **OPEN**

Neurofilament light (NfL) in serum can be used to monitor treatment efficacy in patients with multiple sclerosis. In this study, disease activity and multiple sclerosis therapies had similar effects on serum and CSF NfL concentrations. Due to high

correlation between CSF and serum NfL, blood can replace CSF sampling for this biomarker.

See p. 2230

High risk of postpartum relapses in neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder

Through survey and review to study the effect of pregnancy on neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) relapse, the authors identified the postpartum period as a high-risk time for initial presentation of NMOSD. The NMOSD relapse rate was increased during pregnancy, but not as much as after delivery.

See p. 2238

From editorialists Banwell and Marrie: "An increased risk for relapse with pregnancy will be an important consideration for women with NMOSD and their treating physicians, particularly given the usual goal of limiting exposures of the developing fetus to potentially teratogenic or otherwise harmful medications."

See p. 2220

Early weight loss in parkinsonism predicts poor outcomes: Evidence from an incident cohort study **OPEN**

With long-term follow-up of a population-based incidence cohort, the authors examined the influence of weight loss in parkinsonism. Sustained weight loss occurred early in Parkinson disease and was associated with higher risk of dependency, dementia, and death. Identification of early weight loss may allow targeted interventions to improve outcomes.

See p. 2254

Midlife systemic inflammatory markers are associated with late-life brain volume: The ARIC study

In a large prospective community, individuals with higher levels of circulating inflammatory markers in their 4th and 5th decades of life had smaller brain volumes as older adults, particularly in Alzheimer disease susceptible regions. These findings implicate systemic inflammation as an early contributor to late-life neurodegeneration.

See p. 2262

NB: "Radiation-induced spinal nerve root cavernous malformations as a rare cause of radiculopathy," p. 2299. To check out other *NeuroImages*, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Mystery Case discussing a 61-year-old woman who presented with sensory loss and paralysis. This week also includes a *Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities* collection of short stories titled "The rest of the iceberg."

Neurology®

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Neurology 2017;89:2217

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000004722

This information is current as of November 27, 2017

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