In Focus

Spotlight on the August 8 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that validates noncontrast CT as a reliable tool in the identification of patients with intracerebral hemorrhage at high risk of hematoma expansion and another that identifies distinct behavioral phenotypes of behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia. A featured Historical Neurology article highlights Jules Dejerine's contribution to the field of peripheral nervous system diseases.

ARTICLES

Age- and sex-specific analysis of patients with embolic stroke of undetermined source

The authors provide evidence that age, not sex, is a strong predictor of stroke recurrence and all-cause death in embolic stroke of undetermined source (ESUS). The age distribution of recruited patients in ongoing ESUS trials could influence their power to detect a treatment effect.

See p. 532

From editorialist Charidimou: "From a clinical standpoint, ESUS remains an entity with fuzzy edges and likely represents a disease spectrum with different natural history and future stroke risk. The study by Ntaios et al. demonstrates how this heterogeneity may differ across age groups and the potential implications for clinical management of ESUS patients and ongoing trials."

See p. 526

Breastfeeding, ovulatory years, and risk of multiple sclerosis

The Multiple Sclerosis Sunshine Study found that mothers who breastfeed for a total of 15 months or longer may reduce their subsequent risk of developing multiple sclerosis by up to 53%. This reveals another maternal health benefit of breastfeeding, which also includes reduced risk of breast cancer, myocardial infarction, and type 2 diabetes.

See p. 563

Neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases among families with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [OPEN](#)

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) symptoms and diagnosis lead to increased burden of psychiatric disorders. Using population-based registers, the authors found familial aggregation of ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases, and increased risk of psychiatric disorders among patients with ALS and their children. Neurodegenerative diseases might share common etiopathogenesis; an ALS diagnosis triggers a severe stress response.

See p. 578

CLINICAL/SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Wrist sensor reveals sympathetic hyperactivity and hypoventilation before probable SUDEP

Respiratory and autonomic dysfunction can begin shortly after a seizure and progress to death. A wristband sensor, which detected a seizure and issued an alert, collected data on activity, respiration, and autonomic function leading to sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP). Seizure-alerting devices may help prevent SUDEP, but require clinician or family intervention to prevent death.

See p. 633

NB: "Bilateral ape hand deformity," p. 638. To check out other *NeuroImages*, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Section Clinical Reasoning discussing the diagnosis of a patient with diplopia in both eyes, and the Pearls & Oysters on an uncommon initial presentation of thyrotoxicosis. This week also includes a Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities short story titled "All noble things."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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