Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN, Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*®

Notable in *Neurology* this week

This issue features an article that investigates the proportion and effect of false positives from paraneoplastic panels; another examines whether treatment with IV alteplase alters ischemic lesion development after stroke. A featured article characterizes the neurologic phenotypes of *COL4A1/COL4A2* mutations, including epilepsy.

Articles

Identification of patients who will not achieve seizure remission within 5 years on AEDs

Approximately 30% of patients with epilepsy never enter a sustained remission from seizures. The authors developed a model to identify these patients based on changes in number of seizures and treatment history. The model could be used in clinical practice to aid stratification of patient management and to influence patient counseling.

Page 995

From editorialist Faught: "We must communicate to our patients that there is always hope in epilepsy therapy. Surgery works, and sometimes the ninth drug works."

Page 989

Early predictors of mortality in parkinsonism and Parkinson disease: A population-based study

Parkinsonism and Parkinson disease (PD) are highly variable disorders; this article discusses the phenotypes associated with high mortality. In this population-based study, patients with PD with normal cognitive function had a largely normal life expectancy. PD phenotypes characterized by CSF inflammation, freezing of gait, and hyposmia require closer attention.

Page 996; Patient Page, page e2106

From editorialists Golbe & Leyton: "The results of Bäckström et al. require validation in an independent cohort and replication in different settings in a larger scale, but they are good news for people with PD, their families, and clinicians."

Page 991

Racial differences in neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder

Epidemiologic studies recently revealed that neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) prevalence varies by race. In this study, the authors evaluated racial difference in NMOSD clinical features. Race affects the clinical phenotype, age at onset, and severity of attacks, but overall outcome is most dependent on early effective immunosuppressive treatment.

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MORE ONLINE

🎧 Editor's Summary

Audio summary of highlighted articles.

[NPub.org/edsum](https://www.neurology.org/edsum)

Continued

Medical hypothesis

Ticagrelor for Refractory Migraine/Patent Foramen Ovale (TRACTOR): An open-label pilot study

The migraine headache (MHA) patent foramen ovale (PFO) relationship is poorly understood. In an open-label feasibility study, 43% of MHA-PFO patients had $\geq 50\%$ MHA frequency reduction on ticagrelor, a P2Y₁₂ platelet receptor inhibitor, similar to the observed response with thienopyridine P2Y₁₂ inhibitors. The MHA-PFO trigger mechanism may be platelet-mediated. [Page 1010](#); [Related article, page 1002](#); [Editorial, page 993](#)

NB: "Anosmia as the initial presentation of neurosarcoidosis," p. 1020. To check out other *NeuroImages*, point your browser to Neurology.org/N. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Emerging Subspecialties in Neurology article discussing the multidisciplinary field of pain medicine. This week also includes a short *Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities* memoir titled "Boxing with the past."

NEW EPISODE

November 27, 2018

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Early predictors of mortality in parkinsonism and Parkinson disease: A population-based study (see p. 996)

1. Featured Article: Early predictors of mortality in parkinsonism and Parkinson disease: A population-based study
2. What's Trending: Data from the Largest Natural History Study of Stiff Person Syndrome

In the first segment, Dr. Jeffery Ratliff talks with Dr. David Bäckström about his paper on early predictors of mortality in parkinsonism and Parkinson disease. In the second part of the podcast, Dr. Jeffery Ratliff focuses his interview with Marinos Dalakas on stiff person syndrome.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org.

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Spotlight on the November 27 issue

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Neurology 2018;91:987-988

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000006562

This information is current as of November 26, 2018

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