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Notable in *Neurology* this week

This issue features an article that investigates cognitive profiles of patients with probable Alzheimer disease to see if the profiles are systematically related to clinical course or neuropathologic features of the disease; another describes a novel antibody biomarker of neurologic paraneoplastic autoimmunity specific for phosphodiesterase 10A, and characterizes patients' clinical phenotype. A featured Views & Reviews summarizes previously identified measures of distal symmetrical axonal polyneuropathy.

Articles

Effect of dalfampridine on information processing speed impairment in multiple sclerosis

This double-blind placebo-controlled randomized trial showed the effectiveness of a pharmacologic treatment for cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis, and demonstrated that dalfampridine is superior to placebo in improving cognitive processing speed. Dalfampridine could be the first pharmacologic option for treatment of patients with cognitive deficits.

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From editorialists Sumowski & Muhlert: "It is tempting to conclude that a voltage-dependent potassium channel blocker such as dalfampridine enhances neural conduction resulting in faster processing speed, but this is a superficial explanation for how increased conduction on a neural level leads to improvements in more complex cognitive processing."

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Mild behavioral impairment is linked to worse cognition and brain atrophy in Parkinson disease

Emergent neuropsychiatric symptoms increase dementia risk. This article shows that neuropsychiatric symptoms in Parkinson disease, measured using the mild behavioral impairment checklist (MBI-C), are strongly linked with middle temporal lobe atrophy and deficits in every cognitive domain, suggesting incipient cognitive decline. These findings support the MBI-C as a useful clinical tool.

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Measures of obesity are associated with MRI markers of brain aging: The Northern Manhattan Study

Brain aging may be attenuated by reducing obesity. Using data from the Northern Manhattan Study, the authors found that greater body mass index and waist circumference was associated with greater cortical thinning. Obesity may affect cortical atrophy and lead to cognitive decline, but more work is warranted.

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MORE ONLINE

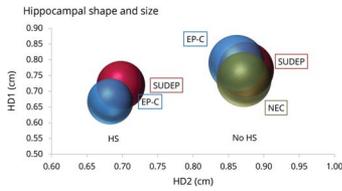
🎧 Editor's Summary

Audio summary of highlighted articles.

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Continued

Hippocampal morphometry in sudden and unexpected death in epilepsy



Biomarkers are needed to identify patients with epilepsy at greater risk for sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP). In a large postmortem series, no morphometric signature for SUDEP for hippocampal shape, size, or dentate gyrus patterns was identified, compared to controls. Greater left–right asymmetries were noted in SUDEP, in keeping with MRI reports.

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NB: “Monocular nystagmus in a patient with alternating hemiplegia of childhood,” p. 361. To check out other Video NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org/N. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning article deducing the cause of an 18-year-old woman’s neuropathy and tremors beyond Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Teaching NeuroImages article titled “Enlarged parietal foramina inadvertently labeled as burr holes.”

NEW EPISODE



August 20, 2019

CME Opportunity:

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Phosphodiesterase 10A IgG: A novel biomarker of paraneoplastic neurologic autoimmunity (see p. 336)

1. Phosphodiesterase 10A IgG: A novel biomarker of paraneoplastic neurologic autoimmunity
2. What’s Trending: “Evergreening” and drug prices

In the first segment, Dr. Stacey Clardy talks with Dr. Anastasia Zekeridou about her paper on phosphodiesterase 10A IgG, a novel biomarker of paraneoplastic neurologic autoimmunity. In the second part of the podcast, Dr. Jason Crowell focuses his discussion with Prof. Robin Feldman on “evergreening” and drug prices.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org.

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Spotlight on the August 20 issue

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