

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN, Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>



## Notable in *Neurology* this week

This issue features an article that estimates the proportion of late-life cognitive loss that is attributable to terminal decline; another investigates the effectiveness of targeted next-generation sequencing panels in achieving a clinical molecular diagnosis of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. A featured Views & Reviews article summarizes evidence-based data regarding the role of telemedicine in the care of patients with neurologic disorders other than stroke.

## Articles

### Risks and benefits of unapproved disease-modifying treatments for neurodegenerative disease

The authors assessed whether access to putative disease-modifying treatments results in a clinical benefit to patients with neurodegenerative diseases in randomized placebo-controlled trials. They concluded that active treatment is not beneficial and may be disadvantageous for patients with Alzheimer disease. Patients with neurodegenerative diseases are not harmed by assignment to placebo.

Page 18

*From editorialists Rezak & de Carvalho: "Their results force us to consider the possibility that these unsubstantiated treatments may, in fact, add to the burden of patients' disease and must be weighed in the context of avoiding harm in an already desperate situation."*

Page 12

### REM sleep atonia loss distinguishes synucleinopathy in older adults with cognitive impairment

In this study, REM sleep muscle activity (REM sleep without atonia [RSWA]) was quantitatively analyzed. Submental (chin) RSWA was substantially greater in patients with probable synucleinopathy than in those without synucleinopathy. Quantitative polysomnographic RSWA analysis is useful for distinguishing cognitive impairment phenotypes. Further confirmation is needed to clarify the diagnostic value of RSWA in dementia diagnosis.

Page 19

### Anesthetic management during endovascular treatment of acute ischemic stroke in the MR CLEAN Registry

The authors compared outcomes of patients treated with 3 different anesthetic approaches during endovascular treatment. Local anesthesia resulted in the best functional outcome, with a more prominent advantage over conscious sedation than general anesthesia. Local anesthesia allows clinical assessment during the procedure, is less complex, and may reduce health care costs.

Page 26

## MORE ONLINE

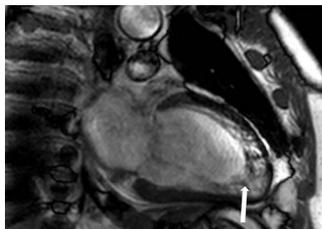
### 🎧 Editor's Summary

Audio summary of highlighted articles.

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

*Continued*

## Undetermined stroke genesis and hidden cardiomyopathies determined by cardiac magnetic resonance



Echocardiography may be insufficient to detect cardiomyopathies in patients with stroke. Cardiac MRI was performed in consecutive patients with ischemic stroke and showed a higher frequency of cardiomyopathies than reported in the general population. Cardiomyopathies should be considered a possible cause of stroke of undetermined etiology.

Page 27

*From editorialists de Freitas & Barreira: "The study by Fonseca et al. highlights that cardiomyopathies could contribute another, probably small, piece in the ESUS puzzle. Some of these pieces may require more sophisticated technology not currently routinely used in clinical practice for identification and characterization."*

Page 14

*NB: "Beware of deep water after subthalamic deep brain stimulation," p. 39. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to [Neurology.org/N](http://Neurology.org/N). At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning article discussing the diagnosis of daily persistent headache in a patient with an underrecognized cause. This week also includes a NeuroImage article titled "Ictal multicomponent agraphia in left temporal lobe epilepsy."*

### NEW EPISODE



January 7, 2020

**CME Opportunity:** Listen to this week's *Neurology* Podcast and earn 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ by answering the multiple-choice questions in the online Podcast quiz.

## Targeted next-generation sequencing panels in the diagnosis of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (see p. 22)

1. Targeted next-generation sequencing panels in the diagnosis of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease
2. What's Trending: Gut Microbe to Brain Signaling: What Happens in Vagus ...

In the first segment, Dr. Michelle Mauermann talks with Dr. Mary Reilly about her paper on targeted next-generation sequencing panels in the diagnosis of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. In the second part of the podcast, Dr. David Lapidus talks with Dr. Christine Fulling about gut microbiota and brain signaling via the vagus nerve to affect brain and behavior.

Disclosures can be found at [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org).

# Neurology<sup>®</sup>

## Spotlight on the January 7 issue

Robert A. Gross

*Neurology* 2020;94;1-2

DOI 10.1212/WNL.00000000000008691

### This information is current as of December 30, 2019

<b>Updated Information &amp; Services</b>	including high resolution figures, can be found at: <a href="http://n.neurology.org/content/94/1/1.full">http://n.neurology.org/content/94/1/1.full</a>
<b>Citations</b>	This article has been cited by 4 HighWire-hosted articles: <a href="http://n.neurology.org/content/94/1/1.full##otherarticles">http://n.neurology.org/content/94/1/1.full##otherarticles</a>
<b>Permissions &amp; Licensing</b>	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: <a href="http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions">http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions</a>
<b>Reprints</b>	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: <a href="http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise">http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise</a>

*Neurology*® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2019 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

