Notable in Neurology This Week
This issue features an article that investigates the reversibility of CT hypodensity after endovascular treatment; another examines the risk for and causes of death in patients with late-onset epilepsy. A featured Contemporary Issues in Practice, Education, & Research article evaluates innovations in patient selection and analytical strategy to optimize phase 3 clinical trials for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Research Articles

Comparison of MRI Lesion Evolution in Different Central Nervous System Demyelinating Disorders
This article identifies MRI features that help differentiate among myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein–immunoglobulin G (IgG)–associated disorder (MOGAD), anti–aquaporin-4 (AQP4)–IgG neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD), and multiple sclerosis (MS). In patients with different CNS demyelinating disorders, MRI lesion resolution after the first brain/myelitis attack was more common in MOGAD (72%–79%) than AQP4-IgG-NMOSD (0%–14%) and MS (0%–17%). Differences in MRI lesion evolution might explain the different patterns of disability accrual in these disorders.

Association of Midlife Plasma Amyloid-β Levels With Cognitive Impairment in Late Life: The ARIC Neurocognitive Study
Plasma biomarkers may help identify patients at risk for dementia early, when interventions could be more effective. In this study, higher midlife amyloid-β (Aβ)42 was associated with lower risk and Aβ40 with higher risk of late-life cognitive impairment. Midlife plasma biomarkers might have utility as predictive markers of late-life cognitive impairment risk.

Viewpoints and Editorial on the FDA Approval of Aducanumab
Two Viewpoint articles highlight the controversy surrounding the approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of aducanumab for patients with Alzheimer disease (AD). In the first article, Drs. Salloway and Cummings argue that the evidence in support of approval is sufficient and that the approval of the drug heralds a new era in the treatment on AD. In a second article, Drs. Knopman and Perlmutter present the opposing view, contending that the evidence supporting the use of aducanumab is sparse and that the risks associated with its use are significant. They maintain that the drug was approved without evidence of consistent clinical benefits. In an accompanying editorial, Drs. Hershey and Tarawneh highlight salient issues around efficacy, safety, and indications that clinicians will have to explain to their patients before prescribing the drug.

Continued
From editorialists Hershey and Tarawneh: “As neurologists, we need to carefully review the evidence from the phase IB and III randomized controlled clinical trials concerning the clinical efficacy and safety of this drug in symptomatic persons with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia who have elevated cerebral levels of amyloid-β (Aβ). We should also gain an appreciation for how this drug acquired accelerated approval from the FDA on the basis of the surrogate endpoint of Aβ plaque reduction as measured by PET imaging. We owe this to our patients and to their caregivers.”

NB: “Two Mechanisms of Scapular Winging Visualized in a Patient With Parsonage-Turner Syndrome,” p. 550. To check out other Video NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org/N. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Section Pearls & Oy-sters article providing insight on Buerger disease, or thromboangiitis obliteratoris, as a possible etiology of stroke in young patients who smoke. This week also includes a NeuroImage titled “Area Postrema Syndrome as the Initial Presentation of Alexander Disease.”

NEW EPISODE

Comparison of MRI Lesion Evolution in Different Central Nervous System Demyelinating Disorders (see p. 522)

In the first part of the podcast, Dr. Stacey Clardy talks with Dr. Eoin Flanagan about how MRI T-2 lesion evolution differs across central nervous system demyelinating disorders. In the second segment, Dr. Teshamae Monteith talks with Dr. Gabriela Carvalho about behavioral and neuronal responses to a virtual roller coaster ride in patients with migraine.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org.

CME Opportunity: Listen to this week’s Neurology® Podcast and earn 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ by completing the online podcast quiz.
**Spotlight on the September 14 Issue**
José G. Merino

*Neurology* 2021;97:513-514
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000012541

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