

Meningiomas and schwannomas

In a large population study from Finland, Antinheimo et al. (p. 71) evaluated all patients with multiple meningiomas and schwannomas. In the majority, neurofibromatosis 2 (NF2) could be recognized. ♦ The accompanying editorial by King and Gutmann (p. 4) reviews the criteria for NF2 and notes that patients with early presentation of these tumors should have periodic assessments for other signs of NF2.

Enterovirus in ALS spinal cord

Berger et al. (p. 20) used the specific and highly sensitive molecular techniques (reverse transcriptase PCR and reverse transcriptase in situ PCR) to study the spinal cord of ALS patients. Neurons from 15 of 17 cases showed enterovirus nucleic acid sequences (versus 1 of 29 controls). Enterovirus sequences showed high homology with Echovirus 7. ♦ The editorial by Karpati and Dalakas (p. 6) critically reviews the importance and limitation of this provocative study and poses questions to be addressed as well as the potential therapeutic implications of the observations.

Trial of antifibrinolytic therapy for subarachnoid hemorrhage

Roos for the STAR Study (p. 77) report a large, well-controlled study of tranexamic acid in acute (less than 96 hours post) subarachnoid hemorrhage. Treatment significantly reduced

re-bleeding but did not improve outcome (Glasgow Outcome Scale).

Transdermal selegiline for HIV dementia

A small controlled trial by Sacktor et al. (p. 233) assessed transdermal selegiline in HIV-positive patients for safety, tolerability, and effect on cognitive impairment. There were no major side effects, and there were improvements in verbal memory and motor and psychomotor performance sufficient to justify a larger controlled trial.

HAART for HIV myelopathy

Reverse transcriptase and protease inhibitors constitute highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) and are a major advance in AIDS treatment. It has been feared that HAART may not be as effective for CNS HIV complications. Here, Staudinger and Henry (p. 267) report that HAART was remarkably effective against the usually relentless AIDS myelopathy.

Botulinum toxin for drooling in PD

The majority of patients with PD have impaired reflex swallowing and consequent drooling. Pal et al. (p. 244) injected botulinum toxin into the parotid gland of nine patients with troublesome drooling. Six of the nine improved symptomatically. Eight had reduced production of saliva. The authors have embarked on a double-blind trial to extend this uncontrolled study.

Effect of estrogen on memory in Turner syndrome

Girls with Turner's syndrome have a distinctive profile of neurobehavior impairment. Ross et al. (p. 164) studied 73 karyotype-confirmed patients during a longitudinal trial comparing estrogen with growth hormone for treatment of short stature. Although only 56 of 73 cases could be analyzed, in this group, verbal and nonverbal memory improved significantly.

Eletriptan versus sumatriptan versus placebo for migraine

A well-controlled trial by Goadsby et al. (p. 156) compared these treatments administered orally. Eletriptan improved headaches in a greater percentage of patients. It also improved the level of function in migraine patients.

Interferon beta in MS: Effect on lesion activity on MRI

Zhao et al. (p. 200) performed annual head MRI on 372 relapsing-remitting MS patients during a controlled clinical trial of IFN β -1b. Patients were followed for 3 to 5 years. Treated patients had a striking reduction in the accumulation of lesions.

Chlamydia testing in MS

Boman et al. (p. 265) studied the CSF of 48 patients with MS for both viable *Chlamydia pneumoniae* and *C. pneumoniae* DNA. They did not find evidence for chlamydia in MS, which had been recently reported in an MS patient.

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