



In Focus

Spotlight on the November 30 Issue

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Effects of breastfeeding in children of women taking antiepileptic drugs



In this NEAD study, IQs of 42 breastfed children were not different from those of nonbreastfed children. This preliminary analysis failed to demonstrate deleterious effects of breastfeeding during maternal antiepileptic drug (AED) therapy on cognitive outcomes in children previously exposed in utero. Additional research is needed to confirm this observation and extend investigations to other AEDs and polytherapy.

See p. 1954

From editorialist Autumn Klein: "There is still a pressing need to gather more data on individual AEDs in breast milk and their long-term effects, so that neurologists, pediatricians, obstetricians, and lactation consultants can better counsel reproductive age WWE [women with epilepsy]."

See p. 1948

Multifocal motor neuropathy: Association of anti-GM1 IgM antibodies with clinical features



The authors determined the prevalence and specificity of antibodies against single gangliosides and ganglioside complexes in serum from 88 patients with multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN). Anti-ganglioside IgM antibodies, which may have a pathogenic role in MMN, displayed limited specificity and were associated with severity and clinical characteristics.

See p. 1961; Editorial, p. 1950

Hippocampal atrophy rates and CSF biomarkers in elderly APOE2 normal subjects



This paper demonstrated slower hippocampal atrophy rates and less abnormal CSF biomarkers in 27 cognitively normal APOE2 carriers compared with 107 APOE3/3 controls. The authors hypothesized that the slower rate of hippocampal atrophy was related to decreased preclinical Alzheimer pathology.

See p. 1976; Editorial, p. 1952

Intracortical lesions: Relevance for new MRI diagnostic criteria for multiple sclerosis

Brain double inversion recovery and brain and cord T2- and postcontrast T1-weighted scans were acquired in a training (80 clinically isolated syndromes [CIS] patients) and a validation (39 CIS patients) sample. The accuracy of MRI diagnostic criteria for multiple sclerosis (MS) was increased when considering the presence of intracortical lesions on baseline scans from patients with CIS suggestive of MS.

See p. 1988

Neuroanatomic basis of amnesic MCI differs in patients with and without Parkinson disease

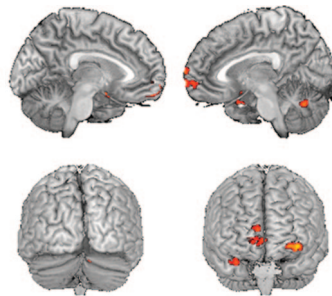


Image data were analyzed using voxel-based morphometry in 119 patients with amnesic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI) who underwent T1-weighted MRI. No significant differences in demographic characteristics or general

cognition were found between patients with aMCI-PD⁻ and those with aMCI-PD⁺; however, different neuroanatomic systems did underlie memory dysfunction in both.

See p. 2009

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Quality improvement in neurology: AAN Parkinson disease quality measures



Programs such as maintenance of board certification and Medicare pay-for-performance require measures of care quality. The AAN is developing measures for neurologic conditions. This paper reports 10 measures for the care of patients with Parkinson disease.

See p. 2021

NB: Have you recently checked out the Patient Page section of the journal? Go to www.neurology.org and click on Patients.

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