In Focus

Spotlight on the December 7 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*®

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY®

Endothelial progenitor cells correlate with lesion volume and growth in acute stroke

Biomarkers of stroke severity, including endothelial progenitor cells, are important for accurate evaluation of stroke outcomes. The authors found that endothelial progenitor cells enumerated by flow cytometry sorting analysis were related to acute, final, and growth or lesion volumes quantified on MRI in 17 acute stroke patients.

See p. 2059; Editorial, p. 2050

Novel CSF biomarkers for frontotemporal lobar degenerations

This study collected CSF samples from 33 living, cognitively normal subjects; 66 patients with autopsy-confirmed Alzheimer disease; and 80 living patients with clinically diagnosed frontotemporal dementia. Clinical cases with FTLD-TDP and FTLD-tau pathology may potentially identify levels of specific analytes that are readily measureable in CSF.

See p. 2079

HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders persist in the era of potent antiretroviral therapy: CHARTER Study

This observational study recruited 1,555 HIV-infected adults to determine the frequency and associated features of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders in the era of combination antiretroviral therapy (CART). The most severe HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders were rare, but milder forms of impairment remained common, even among those receiving CART who had minimal comorbidities.

See p. 2087, Editorial 2052

Neurocognitive sequelae in African American and Caucasian children with multiple sclerosis

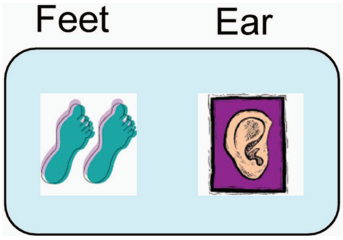
The authors examined domain-specific neurocognitive differences in a cohort of 42 pediatric-onset multiple sclerosis patients (20 African American and 22 Caucasian). Since African American patients may be at higher risk, longitudinal characterization of cognitive pathology is critical for the development of effective intervention strategies.

See p. 2097

From editorialist Ruth Ann Marrie: "In order to address the challenging question of the relationship between race and cognitive impairment in the adult or pediatric MS population, these studies need to measure race, as well as ethnicity and a range of social factors, and to consider treatment status comprehensively."

See p. 2054

Developmental fMRI study of episodic verbal memory encoding in children



Children from 7 to 19 years of age were scanned using noninvasive fMRI to demonstrate that verbal memory encoding was associated with left hippocampal and bi-basal ganglionic activation. The authors introduce the possibility that fMRI may be used for presurgical localization of verbal memory in children with refractory epilepsy who are under consideration for temporal lobectomy.

See p. 2110

VIEWS & REVIEWS

The contribution of MRI in assessing cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis

Following an updated overview of the assessment methods and profile of cognitive impairment in patients with MS, this review provides a state-of-the-art summary of the main results obtained from the application of conventional and modern MR-based techniques to quantify MS-related damage.

See p. 2121

NB: Point your browser to www.neurology.org/misc/Residents_and_Fellows.dtl to see the online section of Neurology devoted to Residents and Fellows. Check out this week's Teaching NeuroImage, which appears in the print journal.

Podcasts can be accessed at www.neurology.org

Spotlight on the December 7 Issue

Robert A. Gross

Neurology 2010;75;2049
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31820152a0