



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 22 Issue

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Prefrontal cortex lesions and MAO-A modulate aggression in penetrating traumatic brain injury 📖

This study investigated the interaction between brain lesion location and monoamine oxidase A (MAO-A) in the genesis of aggression after penetrating traumatic brain injury (PTBI) in 155 patients and 42 controls. Potentially, lesion localization and MAO-A genotype data should be combined to develop risk-stratification algorithms and individualized treatments for aggression in PTBI.

See p. 1038

From editorialist Tony M. Wong: "Finding a reliable biomarker for post-TBI aggressive behavior would be an important and helpful advance in our understanding of TBI outcomes. Such biomarkers, either alone or in combination with other factors, could improve diagnostic and predictive specificity, and ultimately clinical efficacy. The Pardini et al. study provides a nice first step toward that goal."

See p. 1032

A prospective study on the role of CXCL13 in Lyme neuroborreliosis

This study evaluated the diagnostic value of chemokine CXCL13 as a potential biomarker for Lyme neuroborreliosis. CXCL13 was an early marker for acute Lyme neuroborreliosis, substantially improving the diagnostic workup.

See p. 1051; Editorial, p. 1034

Risk of acute promyelocytic leukemia in multiple sclerosis: Coding variants of DNA repair genes 📖

The authors genotyped patients who developed sAPL after treatment of MS. The presence of 210 single nucleotide polymorphisms of 22 genes, mostly involved in DNA repair and drug detoxification, were found in 18 of 20 treated with mitoxantrone.

See p. 1059

Long-term results of stem cell transplantation for MS: A single-center experience 📖

This study reported the clinical and MRI outcomes of 35 patients with aggressive MS treated with hemopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). HSCT results in better progression-free survival rates in patients with active MRI lesions, reducing the number and volume of gadolinium-enhancing lesions.

See p. 1066

Nonconvulsive seizures are common in critically ill children 📖 📖

The authors prospectively evaluated 100 critically ill children with acute encephalopathy using EEG monitoring. Electrographic seizures were identified in 46% and electrographic status epilepticus was common; however, the majority of seizures had no clinical correlate. Further study is needed to determine whether detection and management of nonconvulsive seizures improves outcome.

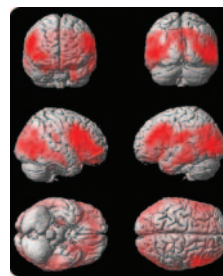
See p. 1071; Editorial, p. 1036

Cerebrovascular risk factors and preclinical memory decline in healthy APOE ε4 homozygotes 📖

The authors performed longitudinal neuropsychological testing on 74 APOE ε4 homozygotes, 239 ε4 heterozygotes, and 494 ε4 noncarriers. The long-term memory score of the Auditory Verbal Learning Test was the primary outcome measure. Cerebrovascular risk factors influenced age-related memory decline in APOE ε4 homozygotes.

See p. 1078

Amyloid PET imaging in patients with mild cognitive impairment: A 2-year follow-up study 📖



This paper showed increased amyloid burden in the brain estimated by [¹¹C] PiB PET imaging. This suggests that amyloid burden increased in milder stages of cognitive impairment but reached a virtual plateau at the diagnosis of Alzheimer disease.

See p. 1085

NB: "Resident & Fellow Pearls & Oysters: Errors in EEG interpretations: What is misinterpreted besides temporal sharp transients?" see p. e57. To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions and e-Pearl submissions, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>. Did you know the journal is celebrating 60 years of publishing? Check out the special editorial by Dr. Lewis Rowland (previous Editor-in-Chief) that appeared in the March 1 issue. Join the Editors and Staff on Sunday, April 10, to celebrate Neurology's 60th Anniversary! We will be serving cake at the Celebration for Research during the 2011 AAN Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

Podcasts can be accessed at www.neurology.org

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