

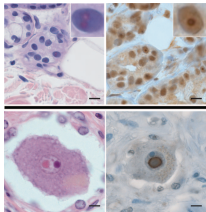


In Focus

Spotlight on the April 19 Issue

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Skin biopsy is useful for the antemortem diagnosis of neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease



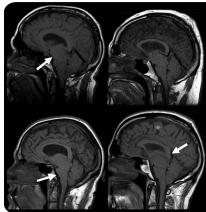
The authors evaluated 7 skin biopsy samples from patients with familial neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease (NIID). The results were compared with those of skin samples from control subjects and from patients with other neurologic diseases. Skin biopsy is an effective antemortem diagnostic tool for NIID and is less invasive than rectal or sural nerve biopsy.

See p. 1372

From editorialist Keith Josephs: "Most important, the findings of this study suggest that NIID not only affects the neurologic and gastrointestinal systems but also the integument and hence is an even more widespread disorder than previously thought."

See p. 1368

Frontotemporal brain sagging syndrome: An SIH-like presentation mimicking FTD



The authors identified 8 patients presenting with features suggestive of frontotemporal dementia including abnormal FDG-PET scans. MRI scans demonstrated marked brain sag suggestive of CSF leak. This entity, termed frontotemporal brain sagging syndrome, may respond to therapies for CSF leaks and should be differentiated from degenerative frontotemporal dementia.

See p. 1377, Editorial 1370

Alzheimer-signature MRI biomarker predicts AD dementia in cognitively normal adults

Two independent samples of adults who were cognitively normal were scanned. By focusing on cortical regions known to be affected in AD dementia, subtle but reliable atrophy was identified in asymptomatic individuals nearly a decade before dementia, making this measure a potentially important imaging biomarker of early neurodegeneration.

See p. 1395

NB: AAN Special Article: "Evidence-based guideline: Treatment of painful diabetic neuropathy." To check out other evidence-based guidelines, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>. Hope you saw the splash about this article at the AAN Meeting.

Podcasts can be accessed at www.neurology.org

Efavirenz associated with cognitive disorders in otherwise asymptomatic HIV-infected patients

This study enrolled 146 asymptomatic HIV+ patients, nearly half showing mild cognitive impairment. Cognitive disorders were associated with efavirenz use, suggesting potential neurotoxicity of this drug. This observation should be considered during long-term management of patients receiving efavirenz.

See p. 1403

Relationship of UV exposure to prevalence of multiple sclerosis in England

Hospital admission data for diagnoses of multiple sclerosis (MS) and infectious mononucleosis were analyzed with reference to satellite data for ultraviolet B radiation across England. This study provides support for interactions between vitamin D and Epstein-Barr virus in determining the prevalence of MS, which should be taken into account for studies of disease prevention.

See p. 1410

Hippocampal size anomalies in a community-based cohort with childhood-onset epilepsy

A cohort of individuals with nonsyndromic focal epilepsy with onset <16y and controls had research MRI scans. Classic mesial-temporal lobe epilepsy with hippocampal sclerosis was an uncommon finding in the general population. Volume anomalies, both large and small, were often bilateral so the significance of these findings remains unclear.

See p. 1415

VIEWS & REVIEWS

The functional neuroanatomy of actions

This review evaluated neuroimaging and patient studies on the neural basis of actions. The evidence revealed two principles underlying the organization of semantic knowledge in the brain: Conception parallels perception and action, and abstract action knowledge was represented near unimodal sensory and motor cortices.

See p. 1428

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