



In Focus

Spotlight on the April 26 Issue

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The King-Devick test as a determinant of head trauma and concussion in boxers and MMA fighters 🏊 📖 📄

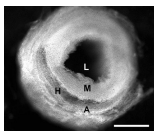
The King-Devick (K-D) test can determine within a minute whether an athlete has had a concussion. K-D test time scores were worse in 39 fighters who participated in this study. Given the potential long-term effects of concussion, the K-D test may be an important tool for rapid sideline diagnosis.

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From editorialists Jeffrey S. Kutcher and Christopher C. Giza: "The simplicity and speed of the K-D test are compelling. Given the environmental constraints of competitive athletics, the availability of a sensitive and reliable sideline concussion screening tool with these characteristics would represent a significant improvement in patient care."

See p. 1450

The outer arterial wall layers are primarily affected in spontaneous cervical artery dissection 🏊



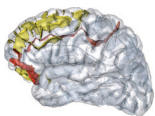
The authors evaluated the macroscopic and microscopic phenotype of the distal superficial temporal artery (STA) in patients with spontaneous cervical artery dissection, compared to STA segments of accident

victims. Samples were obtained through biopsies and autopsies. Microscopic investigation revealed pathologic changes and microbleeds along the tunica media/tunica adventitia interface.

See p. 1463; Editorial, p. 1452

Apathy is related to cortex morphology in CADASIL: A sulcal-based morphometry study

This study included 132 patients with genetically confirmed diagnosis of CADASIL. Cortical morphology in mediofrontal and orbitofrontal areas was associated with apathy, as opposed to cortical thickness. This suggests that the cerebral cortex is involved in the pathophysiology of behavioral symptoms in brain small vessel disease.



See p. 1472

NB: Check out the Patient Page about "The King-Devick test as a determinant of head trauma and concussion in boxers and MMA fighters" (p. e83): point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org> and click on Patients. Listen to the Sports Neurology portions of the March podcasts at <http://www.aan.com/rss/?event=feed&channel=1>. See Resident & Fellow Section "Teaching NeuroImages: Headache with pulsatile tinnitus" (p. e82).

Cerebral blood flow by arterial spin labeling in poststroke dementia

The authors used noninvasive arterial spin labelling MRI to measure cerebral blood flow (CBF) 6 years after stroke in 39 older subjects. Global and parietal CBF was reduced in dementia; however, similar CBF changes occurred in Alzheimer disease and poststroke dementia.

See p. 1478

Vascular risk factors promote conversion from mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer disease 🏊

Identification of risk factors for Alzheimer disease (AD) is important for AD prevention. This 5-year prospective study found that vascular risk factors (VRF) increased the risk of AD incidence and that VRF treatment reduced risk. Active intervention for VRF might be an important approach to prevent AD.

See p. 1485

Multicenter randomized clinical trial of donepezil for memory impairment in multiple sclerosis 📖 📄

This trial enrolled 120 participants who were randomized to either donepezil or placebo. Donepezil failed to improve objective measures of verbal memory, other cognitive abilities, or perceived cognitive change in patients with multiple sclerosis.

See p. 1500

Antibody binding to neuronal surface in Sydenham chorea, but not in PANDAS or Tourette syndrome 📄 🏊

The authors measured serum IgG cell surface binding in patients with PANDAS and compared the findings to those of neurologic controls. Serum autoantibodies to surface proteins were present in Sydenham chorea (SC), but not in PANDAS or Tourette syndrome (TS). These findings strengthen the hypothesis that SC is due to a pathogenic autoantibody, but weaken the hypothesis in PANDAS and TS.

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Podcasts can be accessed at www.neurology.org

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