In Focus

Spotlight on the May 17 Issue

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Clinical outcomes of natalizumab-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

The authors assessed clinical outcomes and identified variables associated with survival in 35 patients with natalizumab-associated progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). At the time of analysis, 25 patients (71%) had survived. These data suggest that earlier diagnosis through enhanced clinical vigilance and aggressive management may improve outcomes in natalizumab-associated PML.

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From editorialist David B. Clifford: "PML must be understood as a major risk, but it is also somewhat manageable through early diagnosis and aggressive treatment. Neither exaggeration nor minimization of the risks of this complication will serve our patients well."

See p. 1688

A case of multiple sclerosis presenting with inflammatory cortical demyelination

Neurologic examination, MRI, CSF and serologic analyses, and brain biopsy were performed in a patient with an active solitary cortical lesion. This case provides pathologic evidence of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis and emphasizes the importance of considering demyelinating disease in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting with a solitary cortical enhancing lesion.

See p. 1705

Diffusion-weighted MRI hyperintensity patterns differentiate CJD from other rapid dementias

This study examined the sensitivity and specificity of brain MRI for prion disease among a cohort of CJD and other rapidly progressive dementias (RPDs). Authors found the pattern of FLAIR/DWI hyperintensity and restricted diffusion differentiates sporadic CJD from other RPDs with high sensitivity and specificity and propose new sCJD MRI criteria.

See p. 1711

Clinical features and *APOE* genotype of pathologically proven early-onset Alzheimer disease

The authors examined clinical data (age at onset, family history, clinical presentation, diagnostic delay, diagnosis) and *APOE* genotype of neuropathologically confirmed early-onset Alzheimer disease in 40 patients. Fully one-third of pathologically proven early-onset Alzheimer disease cases presented atypically.

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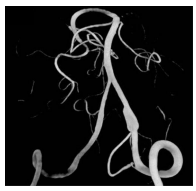
Are networks for residual language function and recovery consistent across aphasic patients?

Functional neuroimaging studies were reviewed, which used language tasks in both patients with chronic aphasia after stroke (N = 105) and control subjects (N = 129). Activation likelihood estimation meta-analysis determined areas of consistent activity in each group. These findings may guide development of treatment protocols that can be applied to aphasic patients who share common attributes.

See p. 1726

Outcomes and prognostic factors of intracranial unruptured vertebrobasilar artery dissection



Presentations, treatments, outcomes and prognostic factors were analyzed in 191 patients with symptomatic intracranial unruptured vertebrobasilar artery dissection (siu-VBD). Clinical outcomes were favorable in all patients without ischemic symptoms and in most patients with ischemic presentation. This study may offer a guideline for the management of siu-VBD.

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CLINICAL/SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Fractal dimension of the retinal vasculature and risk of stroke: A nested case-control study

Retinal vascular fractal dimension could mirror the complexity in the cerebral micro-vasculature. Lower retinal fractal dimension predicted higher stroke risk, independent of traditional factors. This automated measure could be a stroke risk marker.

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NB: "Resident & Fellow Book Review: Pediatric Epilepsy, Third Edition," see p. e99. To check out other Resident & Fellow Book Review submissions, point your browser to http://www.neurology.org and watch for more book reviews over the next several months.

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