



In Focus

Spotlight on the June 7 Issue

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Resting functional connectivity between the hemispheres in childhood absence epilepsy

EEG-fMRI data were recorded from 16 patients with childhood absence epilepsy and 16 age- and gender-matched controls. The authors found abnormal resting connectivity between the 2 hemispheres in the lateral orbital frontal cortex during the interictal period in patients with childhood absence epilepsy.

See p. 1960; Editorial, p. 1952

Serum adipocyte fatty acid-binding protein associated with ischemic stroke and early death 🐸

Serum adipocyte fatty acid-binding protein, an adipocytokine, was measured in 306 subjects with acute ischemic stroke and 306 controls. This cytokine was associated with ischemic stroke and increased early mortality, raising the possibility of its use as a biomarker to identify individuals at increased risk for stroke.

See p. 1968; Editorial, p. 1954

Outcomes after ischemic stroke for hospitals with and without Joint Commission-certified primary stroke centers 🐸

The authors assessed whether 30-day risk-standardized mortality and readmission rates differed between hospitals with and without Joint Commission (JC)-certified primary stroke centers (PSCs). Almost half of JC-certified PSC hospitals had risk-standardized mortality lower than the national average compared with 19% of noncertified hospitals, but 13% of JC-certified PSC hospitals had lower readmission rates vs 15% of noncertified hospitals.

See p. 1976

From editorialists Jason Mackey and Dawn Kleindorfer: "So how are we doing? The bottom line for our patients and our profession is that there seem to be modest improvements in the outcomes of patients who receive care at centers dedicated to stroke care. Stroke centers are here to stay."

See p. 1956

NB: "NeuroImages: Whole-body imaging in schwannomatosis," see p. 2035. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to <http://www.neurology.org>.

Common viruses associated with lower pediatric multiple sclerosis risk

The authors report factors associated with decreased MS risk. Prior infection with cytomegalovirus or, in subjects positive for *HLA-DRB1*, herpes simplex virus type 1 was associated with a lower MS risk in children independently of Epstein-Barr virus status. These findings highlight the complex role of environment and genetics in MS susceptibility.

See p. 1989

Meta-analysis of the relationship between Parkinson disease and melanoma

This study assessed the epidemiologic evidence for the association of melanoma with Parkinson disease. The findings support a moderate association between Parkinson disease and a higher occurrence of melanoma, similar in men and women; however, it was without a clear temporal relationship. Further research is needed to explore potential mechanisms of this relationship.

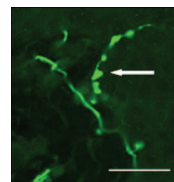
See p. 2002

Comparison of IVIg and PLEX in patients with myasthenia gravis 🐸 📖 📌

This randomized study compared a full course of PLEX to IVIg 2 g/kg in 84 patients with moderate to severe myasthenia gravis and found comparable outcomes on the quantitative myasthenia gravis score. It provides strong evidence that IVIg and PLEX are effective in treating patients with myasthenia gravis.

See p. 2017

Small-fiber neuropathy in patients with ALS



The skin biopsies of 28 patients with ALS were obtained after disease onset; their PGP 9.5 immunohistochemistry findings were compared to 17 age-matched controls. The findings indicate that small, distal epidermal nerve fibers were involved

in this disease, supporting the concept of distal axonopathy in ALS.

See p. 2024

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