



In Focus

Spotlight on the January 18 Issue

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A PET study of photophobia during spontaneous migraine attacks



The authors used H₂¹⁵O positron emission tomography to examine photophobia induced by continuous luminous stimulation covering the whole visual field in 8 migraineurs during spontaneous migraine attacks. Photophobia was found to be a consequence of visual cortex hyperexcitability enhanced during migraine attack by trigeminal activation and also by brainstem activation.

See p. 213; Editorial, p. 206

SPP1 genotype is a determinant of disease severity in Duchenne muscular dystrophy



Two independent cohorts were used to test and validate groups identifying the first robust genetic modifier of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (osteopontin). Future clinical trials should consider stratification for osteopontin modifier genotype, thereby increasing the clinical homogeneity of the patient groups and decreasing the number of patients needed for detection of a drug effect.

See p. 219; Editorial, p. 208

Neuromuscular junction toxicity with tandutinib induces a myasthenic-like syndrome



Six patients with glioblastoma multiforme and being treated with a drug regimen containing tandutinib developed a myasthenic-like syndrome and associated neurophysiologic findings which reversed with discontinuation of the drug. Tandutinib likely presents a novel mechanism of postsynaptic neuromuscular junction toxicity, which may have important implications in clinical and basic research.

See p. 236

MHC transmission: Insights into gender bias in MS susceptibility



The authors examined MHC transmission by family structure and gender stratified by genetic distance of affected relatives from the MS proband in a large family-based cohort consisting of 7,093 individuals with 2,127 being affected. Distorted transmission consistent with epigenetic inheritance was found in the main region determining risk for MS.

See p. 242

From editorialist Orhun H. Kantarci: "Pending independent replication, these results indicate, however, that there is sex-specific inheritance in the MHC region, thereby paving the way for future studies on genome-epigenome interactions, hopefully to advance our understanding of inheritance of complex diseases such as MS."

See p. 210

Adverse antiepileptic drug effects in new-onset seizures: A case-control study

This study compared the reporting of adverse events among 212 patients with new-onset seizures started on low-dose antiepileptic drug treatment and 206 untreated controls. There was no difference between the 2 groups, however. Several factors influenced self-perception of adverse events. Antiepileptic drug tolerability may be improved by targeting these factors.

See p. 273

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Evidence-based guideline update: Plasmapheresis in neurologic disorders



This AAN guideline update confirms the role of plasmapheresis in acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, explores its expanding indication in acute CNS demyelination, and highlights deficiencies in evidence for myasthenia gravis.

See p. 294

RESIDENT & FELLOW SECTION

Pearls & Oysters: Clues for spinal dural arteriovenous fistulae



This clinical pearl discusses how key clinical and radiologic features of spinal dural arteriovenous fistulae (SDAVF) were overlooked in 3 patients. SDAVF should be looked for in suspicious cases since the progression of myelopathy may be prevented with surgical or endovascular treatment.

See p. e10

NB: "NeuroImages: Stroke while squeezing a pimple: Traumatic rupture of a vulnerable carotid artery plaque," see p. 305. To check out other NeuroImages, available free online, point your browser to www.neurology.org. The Green Journal is celebrating a milestone in 2011—60 years of publishing.

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