



In Focus

Spotlight on the August 16 Issue

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Selective executive markers of at-risk profiles associated with the fragile X premutation 📖

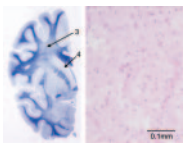
The authors examined the extent to which asymptomatic carriers of the fragile X premutation showed an age-related decline in selective cognitive executive functions. Specific executive markers may serve to identify an at-risk premutation repeat range within which carriers may be especially vulnerable to a late-onset neurodegenerative disorder.

See p. 618

From editorialists Berry-Kravis and Hall: "While Cornish et al. suggest an intriguing hypothesis, that age-related deterioration in specific well-localized executive tasks measuring aspects of inhibition and working memory is a cognitive signature for CGG repeat toxicity in premutation carriers, these findings must be considered preliminary."

See p. 612

Neuron-specific enolase correlates with other prognostic markers after cardiac arrest



Among 111 consecutive patients, 19 died, 58 recovered, and 34 were in coma 3 days after normothermia, defined as prolonged coma. The authors show that the amount of postanoxic brain damage may be quantified

by neuron-specific enolase in serum and suggest that it is a relevant part of a multimodal approach to the comatose cardiac arrest patient.

See p. 623; Editorial, p. 614

Retinal atrophy correlates with fMRI response in patients with recovered optic neuritis

This study investigates the relationship of the optic nerve lesion length, optic nerve mean area, and the retinal nerve fiber layer thickness (RNFLT) with fMRI response in 40 patients with acute optic neuritis and 19 controls. RNFLT provided a good measure of the damage to visual pathways in recovered optic neuritis patients.

See p. 645

Pain in neuromyelitis optica and its effect on quality of life: A cross-sectional study

The authors evaluated bodily pain and quality of life in 37 patients with NMO and 51 with multiple sclerosis. Body pain was more frequent and severe and impaired quality of life more in NMO than in multiple sclerosis.

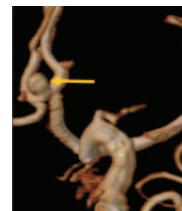
See p. 652

Azathioprine: Tolerability, efficacy, and predictors of benefit in neuromyelitis optica 📖 📈

This follow-up study evaluated the efficacy, tolerability, and optimal dosing of azathioprine and functional monitoring in 99 patients with NMO spectrum of disorders. Azathioprine was effective for reducing relapse rates and improving expanded disability status scale and visual acuity scores in patients with NMO of spectrum disorders.

See p. 659

Contrast-free MRA at 3.0 T for the detection of intracranial aneurysms 📖



This clinical study investigated 369 patients with suspected aneurysms and other cerebral vascular diseases, referred for contrast-free MRA at 3.0 T prior to digital subtraction angiography. Contrast-free MRA at 3.0 T offered higher diagnostic accuracy and

sensitivity—equivalent to that of digital subtraction angiography—for detection of or ruling out intracranial aneurysms.

See p. 667

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NEUROLOGIC PRACTICE

Neurology Academic Advisory Committee: A strategy for faculty retention and advancement

It is not possible to influence many of the factors that lead to faculty turnover or dissatisfaction with academic careers. However, it is encouraging that faculty advancement, satisfaction, retention, and promotion may be substantially influenced by having an advisory program.

See p. 684

NB: This issue includes an editorial about our new correspondence section, WriteClick (see p. 610). The goal of this section is to encourage lively and provocative exchange among authors and *Neurology* readers. Be sure to check it out.

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