



In Focus

Spotlight on the September 11 Issue

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Development of an online tool to determine the appropriateness for an epilepsy surgery evaluation

The RAND/UCLA method was used to integrate available evidence and expert consensus to create 8 multiple-choice questions for use in determining candidacy for epilepsy surgery evaluation. This tool was appropriate for those over age 12 years with focal epilepsy. The RAND/UCLA method might be considered for development of guidelines in epilepsy care.

See p. 1084

From editorialists Langfitt & Mathern: "Only after the evaluation can the proper risk-benefit assessments be made, which should be individualized and include the patient's view of his or her desires and goals so as to arrive at the most appropriate treatment plan."

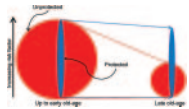
See p. 1074

Lipid profiles and outcome in patients treated by intravenous thrombolysis for cerebral ischemia

The authors used 2 different models with total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol to assess outcomes after thrombolysis. Of 2,485 consecutive patients, 1,847 had detailed lipid profiles available. Lower high-density lipoprotein cholesterol and triglyceride levels were independently associated with mortality; however, these findings were not due to an association of lipid concentrations with symptomatic intracerebral hemorrhage.

See p. 1101; Editorial, p. 1076

C-reactive protein and familial risk for dementia: A phenotype for successful cognitive aging



High C-reactive protein (CRP) levels have been associated with dementia risk in young elderly, but not in the cognitively intact elderly above age 75,

in whom they were associated with good memory. This study showed associations with lower dementia risk in their relatives, suggesting high CRP as a phenotype for successful cognitive aging.

See p. 1116; Editorial, p. 1078

NB: "Recurrent hyperCKemia with normal muscle biopsy in a pediatric patient with neuromyelitis optica," see p. 1182. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

Disease-modifying drugs for multiple sclerosis in pregnancy: A systematic review

The authors identified 15 studies that included 761 interferon beta-exposed pregnancies, 97 glatiramer acetate-exposed pregnancies, and 35 natalizumab-exposed pregnancies. Interferon beta exposure during pregnancy was associated with lower birth weight, shorter birth length, and preterm birth. While much remains unknown, women with multiple sclerosis should be advised to discontinue disease-modifying drugs before pregnancy.

See p. 1130

Chronic pain as a manifestation of potassium channel-complex autoimmunity

The authors investigated the prevalence and characteristics of pain in voltage-gated potassium channel (VGKC)-complex-IgG-seropositive patients during 25 months of comprehensive service testing for neural autoantibodies. VGKC-complex-IgG was identified in 1,992 patients; 316 were neurologically evaluated, with 159 experiencing pain. Chronic idiopathic pain is a syndromic manifestation of VGKC-complex autoimmunity.

See p. 1136; Editorial, p. 1080

Apathy in patients with Parkinson disease without dementia or depression: A PET study

Forty-five patients with Parkinson disease (PD) without clinical depression or dementia were assessed with the Apathy Evaluation Scale and underwent a resting-state F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose PET scan. Results indicated that the frontal, temporal, and cerebellar areas were involved in reward, emotion, and cognition, along with apathy, in these patients.

See p. 1155; Editorial, p. 1082

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Associations of welding and manganese exposure with Parkinson disease: Review and meta-analysis

In 16 epidemiologic studies, welding and manganese exposure were not associated with increased risk of Parkinson disease. Earlier findings that very high occupational manganese exposure leads to manganism do not appear to apply to the lower exposure levels typically experienced in welding.

See p. 1174

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