



In Focus

Spotlight on the April 2 Issue

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Copeptin adds prognostic information after ischemic stroke: Results from the CoRisk study

Accurate and prompt prediction of outcome after stroke is essential for patients, their families, and clinicians. The authors validated the incremental prognostic value of copeptin—a stress biomarker—over existing clinical prediction models. Copeptin may help in early decision making for intensity of monitoring, interventions, and discharge planning.

See p. 1278; Editorial, p. 1270

Prevalence of stenoses and occlusions of brain-supplying arteries in young stroke patients

The authors identified large-artery atherosclerosis as a major risk factor in younger ischemic stroke patients (18-55 years old). The prevalence of extracranial carotid artery stenoses and occlusions was 8.9%, of which 81% were symptomatic. This underestimated number of atherosclerotic strokes calls for forceful risk factor modification at early ages.

See p. 1287

From editorialists Kittner & Singhal: "...provides a valuable service by emphasizing the role of atherosclerosis as an immediate or contributing cause of early-onset ischemic stroke, a role that is only likely to increase in countries affected by the epidemics of early-onset diabetes and childhood obesity and the increasing incidence of stroke in young individuals."

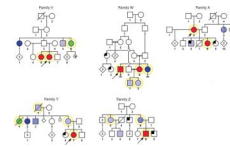
See p. 1272

Predicting cognitive decline: A dementia risk score vs the Framingham vascular risk scores

The authors compared the Framingham risk scores with the Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Aging and Dementia (CAIDE) risk score, using risk factors in midlife to estimate risk of late-life dementia. Participants were men and women with mean age 55.6 years. The Framingham risk scores may have an advantage over the CAIDE risk score for assessment of cognitive decline.

See p. 1300

Genetics of epilepsy syndromes in families with photosensitivity



Twenty-nine families were recruited in which at least 2 members had idiopathic epilepsy and either clinical or electrical photosensitivity on EEG studies.

Electroclinical analyses were performed in these individuals and other affected family members. Shared genetic determinants are likely to contribute to the complex inheritance pattern of photosensitivity, idiopathic photosensitive occipital epilepsy, and genetic (idiopathic) generalized epilepsies.

See p. 1322

Distinction of seropositive NMO spectrum disorder and MS brain lesion distribution

This paper provides practical diagnostic assistance in differentiating multiple sclerosis (MS) from neuromyelitis optica (NMO). Quantitative MRI analysis was used to identify T2 lesion characteristics in each condition, leading to the proposal of criteria to distinguish MS from NMO, which can be applied by nonexperts to existing conventional MRI brain scans.

See p. 1330

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Meta-analysis of amyloid-cognition relations in cognitively normal older adults

Across biomarkers for amyloid, small subclinical differences in memory performance were associated with elevated amyloid. Prevention trials in cognitively normal individuals should be aimed at affecting small memory differences that may portend preclinical Alzheimer disease.

See p. 1341

NB: "The utility of cytology and flow cytometry in the diagnosis of leptomeningeal leukemia," see p. e156. To check out other Resident & Fellow Pearls & Oysters, point your browser to www.neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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Neurology®

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Neurology 2013;80:1269

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31828c9a88

This information is current as of April 1, 2013

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