



In Focus

Spotlight on the January 22 Issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



Reliability of brain CT evaluation by stroke neurologists in telemedicine

Among 536 telestroke patients, clinically relevant misinterpretation of the CT scans was rare (1.7%) compared to blinded neuroradiologists' re-evaluation. The Alberta Stroke Program Early CT Score was a reliable way to assess the extent of early ischemic changes in real time.

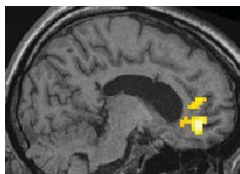
See p. 332; Editorial, p. 326

Continuous EEG in therapeutic hypothermia after cardiac arrest: Prognostic and clinical value

The authors proposed an EEG grading scale that was applied to the monitoring of patients undergoing therapeutic hypothermia after cardiac arrest, which was correlated with outcome. The severity of EEG patterns, as determined by the grading scale, provided useful prognostic information.

See p. 339

Patients with unresponsive wakefulness syndrome respond to the pain cries of other people



Using fMRI in 44 patients with unresponsive wakefulness syndrome, the authors found that the pain matrix of the brain was activated by cries of pain in others, suggesting that the patients identified themselves with those who

experienced pain. Affective consciousness may remain in patients with severe brain damage who have no capacity for cognition.

See p. 345

From editorialists Celesia & Sannita: "The foregoing suggests that we may need to update diagnostic and prognostic guidelines and conduct additional research to define and establish a more reliable boundary between VS [vegetative state] and MCS [minimally conscious state]."

See p. 328

Incidence of stroke in people with Alzheimer disease: A national register-based approach

Alzheimer disease (AD) was related to higher risk of incident hemorrhagic strokes, with no difference in ischemic strokes. Diagnosis of AD was based on prescription reimbursement register and diagnosis of stroke on hospital discharge in 50,808 individuals with 2,947 incident strokes. The findings suggest the importance of cerebrovascular events in AD.

See p. 353

Differential effect of APOE genotype on amyloid load and glucose metabolism in AD dementia

Twenty-two APOE ϵ 4 negative, 40 heterozygous, and 22 homozygous Alzheimer dementia patients underwent dynamic (90 minutes) [¹¹C]Pittsburgh compound B and static [¹⁸F] fluorodeoxyglucose PET scans. APOE genotype had a differential effect on the distribution of amyloid plaques and glucose metabolism, which may have important implications for emerging therapies that aim to directly intervene in the disease process.

See p. 359

Low prevalence of neurocognitive impairment in early diagnosed and managed HIV-infected persons

This study described the prevalence of neurocognitive impairment among 200 HIV-infected (HIV+) patients and 50 HIV-negative controls. HIV + patients diagnosed and managed early during the course of HIV infection had a lower prevalence of neurocognitive impairment. Early recognition and management of HIV infection may be important in limiting neurocognitive impairment.

See p. 371

Functional impairment in progressive supranuclear palsy

Whereas motor, cognitive, and psychiatric symptoms of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) are well-known, the functional disability observed in these patients is less clear. In 202 individuals with PSP, 100% had at least some functional impairment. Providers seeing these patients need to consider the effect of the disease on daily functioning.

See p. 380

Levetiracetam in pregnancy: Results from the UK and Ireland epilepsy and pregnancy registers

The authors report combined results for 304 women exposed to levetiracetam in monotherapy, and 367 exposed to levetiracetam in combination with at least one other antiepileptic drug. Because the major congenital malformation rate for the 304 monotherapy exposures was reassuringly low, levetiracetam seems suitable for use in women of childbearing age.

See p. 400

NB: "The baby with the bucket list," see p. e30. To check out other Humanities articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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