



In Focus

Spotlight on the December 10 Issue

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An RCT to treat learning impairment in multiple sclerosis: The MEMREHAB trial

This trial included 86 participants with multiple sclerosis, 41 in the treatment group and 45 in the control group, each completing a neuropsychological assessment at baseline, posttreatment, and after 6 months. Cognitive rehabilitation was effective if administered to patients with a deficit in the cognitive area being treated.

See p. 2066

From editorialists Filippi & Rocca: "Additional methodologically sound RCTs, like this one, are needed to advance cognitive rehabilitation in MS. This well-designed investigation provides the clinician with the knowledge that behavioral interventions for cognitive dysfunction in MS are currently available and should be utilized."

See p. 2060

Abnormal brain maturation in preterm neonates associated with adverse developmental outcomes

Neonates born between 24 and 32 weeks' gestation were examined early in life and again at term. Using diffusion tensor imaging and magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging, fractional anisotropy and *N*-acetylaspartate/choline were measured from the basal nuclei, white matter tracts, and superior white matter. Brain maturation measured with serial MRI was associated with 18-month neurodevelopmental outcomes.

See p. 2082; Editorial, p. 2062

Ischemic stroke after use of the synthetic marijuana "spice"

The authors describe acute strokes in 2 young patients without typical stroke risk factors who, after smoking spice, presented acutely with stroke, most likely from a cardioembolic source. Newer designer drugs are a growing public health issue with neurologic side effects and should be screened for in clinical practice; more research is needed in this area.

See p. 2090; Editorial, p. 2064

Long-term predictive value of the Framingham Risk Score for Stroke in HIV-positive vs HIV-negative men

The authors assessed how well the Framingham Risk Score for Stroke (FRS-S) predicted stroke in HIV+ vs HIV- men. Among men with stroke, the average 10-year risk of stroke, calculated a decade prior to stroke, was higher for HIV- men, with the FRS-S underestimating the long-term risk of stroke in HIV+ men.

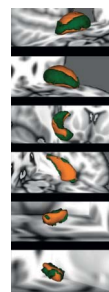
See p. 2094

Reduced expression of hsa-miR-27a-3p in CSF of patients with Alzheimer disease

Using quantitative PCR, the authors described microRNAs (miRNAs) detectable in CSF samples; those patients with Alzheimer disease dementia had lower levels of hsa-miR-27a-3p in their CSF in comparison to elderly patients without dementia. Analysis of miRNAs in CSF is an important source of biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases.

See p. 2103

Basal ganglia involvement in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis



See p. 2107

This study characterized basal ganglia involvement in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) genotypes in 39 patients with ALS and 44 controls. Thirty patients with ALS had a negative *C9orf72* status and 9 carried the *C9orf72* hexanucleotide repeat expansion. These findings showed that ALS is a genuine multisystem disorder with considerable extramotor involvement in subcortical gray matter regions.

Prognosis of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy 45 years after onset: Seizure outcome and predictors

The authors analyzed seizure outcome in 66 patients who had juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. After 45 years, 60% of patients were seizure-free for at least 5 years, with 28 still taking antiepileptic drugs and 11 off medication. In most cases, juvenile myoclonic epilepsy allows drug withdrawal after some years of treatment.

See p. 2128

NB: "Quality improvement in neurology: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis quality measures," see p. 2136. To check out other Special Articles, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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