



In Focus

Spotlight on the January 7 Issue

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Cluster RCT of case management on patients' quality of life and caregiver strain in ALS ▲

Case management is recommended in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis care, but the added value to multidisciplinary care is unknown. The authors performed a randomized controlled trial on the effect of case management and showed no benefit on quality of life and caregiver burden. This research design facilitates future studies on case management.

See p. 23

Effect of subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation on driving in Parkinson disease ▲

Using a proven driving simulator setup, 2 main analyses were performed among 23 patients with deep brain surgery, 21 patients without surgery, and 21 controls. Deep brain stimulation was associated with a reduction in driving errors and improvement in driving accuracy, primarily due to nonmotor effects.

See p. 32

Effects of Bacille Calmette-Guérin after the first demyelinating event in the CNS 📖 ▲

In this trial, 82 participants received Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) or placebo and were monitored monthly with brain MRI. Seventy-three completed the study (33 vaccinated and 40 placebo). BCG vaccine reduced disease activity, total T1-hypointense lesions on MRI, and rate of conversion to multiple sclerosis in clinically isolated syndromes.

See p. 41

From editorialists Bourdette & Naismith: "This study and others suggest that infections are not always deleterious for people with MS. Some may be beneficial and even open doors to new therapies for MS."

See p. 15

White matter perivascular spaces: An MRI marker in pathology-proven cerebral amyloid angiopathy?



The authors compared perivascular spaces in patients with pathology-proven cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA) to patients with spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage but no histopathologic evidence of CAA. Severe

centrum semiovale perivascular spaces on MRI are a promising neuroimaging marker for the in vivo diagnosis of CAA, but the findings are preliminary and require further confirmation.

See p. 57

Effect of head impacts on diffusivity measures in a cohort of collegiate contact sport athletes 📺

This study determined whether exposure to head impacts over a single season affected white matter diffusion measures in 80 varsity football and ice hockey players who wore instrumented helmets recording acceleration-time history of the head following impact, compared to 79 non-contact sport athletes. The findings showed that diffusivity differences correlated with head impact exposure and cognition in contact sport athletes.

See p. 63

Head trauma and in vivo measures of amyloid and neurodegeneration in a population-based study

The authors examined the effects of head trauma on amyloid and neurodegeneration imaging measures in 448 cognitively normal individuals and 141 participants with mild cognitive impairment. Head trauma was associated with greater amyloid among those with mild cognitive impairment, suggesting that head trauma is associated with Alzheimer disease-like neuropathology.

See p. 70

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

The questionable use of unequal allocation in confirmatory trials

The use of uneven allocation ratios in confirmatory trials—which is common in neurology—can interfere with valid informed consent. This exposes more patients to risk than needed and introduces a potential confounder.

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NB: "Nontraumatic hypertrophic neuroma in treated Hansen disease," see p. 93. To check out other NeuroImages, point your browser to www.neurology.org.

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