



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 25 Issue

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Lower stroke risk with lower blood pressure in hemodynamic cerebral ischemia

The authors analyzed the 2-year occurrence of ipsilateral ischemic stroke in 91 patients. Of 16 total strokes occurring during follow-up, 3 occurred in the 41 participants with blood pressures less than 130/85 mm Hg, compared to 13 in the 50 participants with blood pressures greater than 130/85 mm Hg. Best medical therapy of patients with symptomatic carotid occlusion includes strict blood pressure control.

See p. 1027

From editorialists Gottesman & Chalmers: "The questions surrounding the optimal management of BP in patients with cerebral ischemia or with ischemic stroke can only be resolved by rigorous, well-conducted randomized clinical trials."

See p. 1018

Alcohol consumption and cognitive impairment in older men: A mendelian randomization study

This study determined whether excessive alcohol use was a direct cause of cognitive impairment in older men. Participants provided information about their use of alcohol and were classified as abstainers, occasional drinkers, and regular drinkers. The results suggest but do not prove that moderate alcohol consumption may reduce the risk of cognitive impairment in later life.

See p. 1038

Contribution of Alzheimer disease to mortality in the United States

The authors combined estimates of risk of death from incident Alzheimer disease, prevalence estimates, and US census data to estimate the number of deaths attributable to Alzheimer disease in 2010. The number of deaths attributable to Alzheimer disease was similar to cancer and heart disease.

See p. 1045

Chronic kidney disease is associated with dementia independent of cerebral small-vessel disease

The authors investigated the association between chronic kidney disease and dementia, taking MRI findings into account. Early identification and regular surveillance of chronic kidney disease could enable prompt initiation of aggressive management of vascular risk profiles aimed at limiting further renal impairment, possibly reducing the risk of dementia.

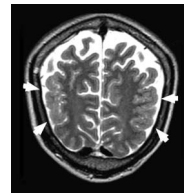
See p. 1051

ALS2 mutations: Juvenile amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and generalized dystonia

Using exome sequencing and candidate gene sequencing approaches, the authors identified mutations in *ALS2* in 2 consanguineous families with a novel phenotype of generalized dystonia and spastic quadriplegia. Since generalized dystonia and cerebellar signs were associated with *ALS2*-related disease, *ALS2* should be screened in patients presenting with similar phenotypes.

See p. 1065

Role of the phosphoinositide phosphatase *FIG4* gene in familial epilepsy with polymicrogyria



The combination of exome sequencing and functional approaches (cellular assay and animal model study) allowed the identification of *FIG4* as the responsible gene in this rare

syndrome. This study extended the spectrum of phenotypes associated with *FIG4* mutations to include cortical malformation associated with seizures and psychiatric manifestations, in addition to Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease.

See p. 1068

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Summary of evidence-based guideline: Complementary and alternative medicine in multiple sclerosis

This guideline focuses on the use of complementary and alternative medicine therapies among persons with multiple sclerosis. Physicians should counsel patients regarding applicable quality control, safety, lack of FDA regulation, potential out-of-pocket expenses, and drug interactions with other disease-modifying therapies, and discuss psychopathologic/cognitive side effects of cannabis.

See p. 1083

NB: "Redundant dopaminergic activity may enable compensatory axonal sprouting in Parkinson disease," see p. 1093. To check out other Medical Hypothesis submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org.

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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Neurology 2014;82;1015

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000000258

This information is current as of March 24, 2014

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<http://n.neurology.org/content/82/12/1015.full>

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