



In Focus

Spotlight on the April 8 Issue

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Fingolimod after natalizumab and the risk of short-term relapse

Previous reports state that patients with multiple sclerosis who switch from natalizumab to fingolimod are at risk of clinical worsening. Using MSBase Registry data, the authors showed that disease activity remains well-controlled in this scenario. Recent prior relapse activity and treatment gap were identified as the strongest predictors of disease activity.

See p. 1204; Editorial, p. 1196

Cognitive training in Parkinson disease: Cognition-specific vs nonspecific computer training

Cognition-specific training (19 patients) vs training with a computer sports game (20 patients) resulted in similar cognitive effects except for attention, which improved more with the sports game. Computer sports games with motion-capturing controllers may be cost-effective rehabilitation tools.

See p. 1219; Comment, p. 1224

rTMS in fibromyalgia: A randomized trial evaluating QoL and its brain metabolic substrate

This study showed that repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) improved the quality of life of patients with fibromyalgia. The improvement was associated with a concomitant increase in right limbic PET metabolism, arguing for a neural substrate of rTMS treatment on quality of life in fibromyalgia.

See p. 1231

Risk factors for EEG seizures in neonates treated with hypothermia: A multicenter cohort study

In this study, risk for electrographic seizures was not associated with clinical features (including severity of encephalopathy, need for advanced resuscitation, and presence of clinical seizures) but was closely related to initial EEG background abnormality. EEG monitoring is necessary to identify neonates at the highest risk for developing seizures during therapeutic hypothermia.

See p. 1239

From editorialists Seltzer & Scher: "Continuous EEG monitoring is currently the most accurate bedside detector of seizures in the context of the timing and causes of a neonatal encephalopathy."

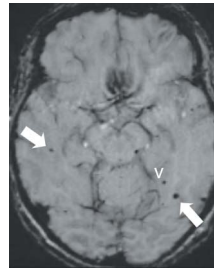
See p. 1200

GABRA1 and STXBP1: Novel genetic causes of Dravet syndrome

The authors performed whole-exome sequencing in 13 SCN1A-negative patients with Dravet syndrome and targeted resequencing in 67 additional patients to identify new genes for this disorder. These results have implications for diagnostic testing, clinical management, and genetic counseling of patients with this devastating disorder and their families.

See p. 1245; Comment, p. 1250

Incidence of cerebral microbleeds in preclinical Alzheimer disease



Cerebral microbleeds are an important small-vessel disease marker, but their incidence is unclear. Using ¹¹C-Pittsburgh compound B (PiB) PET and 3T susceptibility-weighted MRI in 174 individuals over 3 years, incidence of lobar microbleeds was higher in PiB+ and those with baseline microbleeds. These findings are relevant to clinical trial design in preclinical Alzheimer disease.

See p. 1266

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Meta-analysis of preclinical studies of mesenchymal stromal cells for ischemic stroke

A literature search identified studies of mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) in animal models of cerebral ischemia. Of 46 studies, 44 reported that MSCs improved outcome. Results were robust across species studied, administration route, species of MSC origin, timing, degree of immunogenicity, and dose, and in the presence of comorbidities.

See p. 1277

NB: "Obtaining an adult neurology residency position in the United States: An overview," see p. e112. To check out other Resident & Fellow International Issues submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section.

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