



In Focus

Spotlight on the September 2 Issue

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Current practices in feeding tube placement for US acute ischemic stroke inpatients

Many patients with stroke require artificial nutrition. Using a large national database, the authors found striking hospital-level variation in the probability that patients admitted with an ischemic stroke had feeding tubes placed. More standard approaches are needed to improve decision-making around feeding options in patients with ischemic stroke.

See p. 874

From editorialists Willis, Williams, & Mullen: "With an ever-increasing focus on the cost and quality of health care, it is time for neurologists to place a greater emphasis on how we provide care for people with neurologic diseases and on the resulting outcomes that matter to patients and families."

See p. 870

Timing and number of minor infections as risk factors for childhood arterial ischemic stroke

In 102 children with arterial ischemic stroke (AIS) and 306 controls, the authors obtained data on minor infections within 2 years prior to AIS or index date for matched controls. Minor infections had a strong but short-lived effect on pediatric stroke risk, while cumulative burden of infection had no such effect.

See p. 890; Editorial, p. 872

TUBB4A de novo mutations cause isolated hypomyelination

The authors reviewed MRIs and clinical information and performed whole-exome sequencing in patients from 2 leukodystrophy bioregistries who had similar MRI features. Five patients were found to have novel *TUBB4A* mutations through whole-exome sequencing, suggesting that this screening should be considered in cases of isolated hypomyelination or hypomyelination with nonspecific cerebellar atrophy.

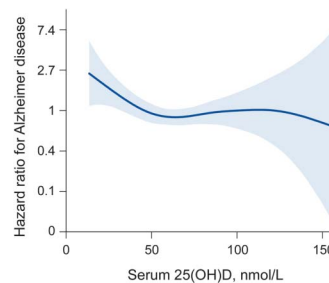
See p. 898

Feasibility of using an online tool to assess appropriateness for an epilepsy surgery evaluation

This online clinical decision tool is easily applied to determine whether patients with focal epilepsy are appropriate for a surgical evaluation. When used with 107 consecutive patients in an epilepsy clinic, tool feasibility was high. Prospective tool application in different clinical settings may lead to improvements in care.

See p. 913

Vitamin D and the risk of dementia and Alzheimer disease



Older adults free from cardiovascular disease and stroke were more than twice as likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer disease if they were severely vitamin D deficient. This is the most robust study of its kind ever conducted, suggesting that

vitamin D supplementation may be effective for dementia prevention.

See p. 920

Dramatically changing rates and reasons for hospitalization in multiple sclerosis

The authors studied temporal trends in hospitalizations in multiple sclerosis (MS) using population-based administrative data. Hospitalization rates declined by 75% over the 25-year study period but remained higher than expected. Fewer than 8% of admissions now are MS-related, suggesting efforts to further reduce hospitalizations must be directed at preventing complications.

See p. 929

NB: "Clinical Reasoning: A 52-year-old woman with progressive proximal weakness," see p. e106. To check out other Resident & Fellow articles, access Neurology.org and click on the Resident & Fellows Section.

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