



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 24 Issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features several articles on cerebrovascular disease and stroke. The first discusses how cortical superficial siderosis may be a new imaging marker in cerebral amyloid angiopathy with and without hemorrhage, and the second discusses leukoariosis and recurrent stroke risk in patients with and without atrial fibrillation. Another featured article focuses on the initial experience with a novel noninvasive vagus nerve stimulation device for the treatment of cluster headache.

ARTICLES

Optimization modeling to maximize population access to comprehensive stroke centers

Up to 20 primary stroke centers per state were selected to compare the state-level emergency medical service policies for routing patients to comprehensive stroke centers within 60 minutes. Under optimal conditions, a large portion of the US population was unable to access a comprehensive stroke center within 60 minutes. Systems planning and policy initiatives in hospitals need improvement to ensure maximum benefit.

See p. 1196

From editorialists Kelly & Attia: "What is the right solution? Where might the right balance of access to stroke centers and maintenance of quality be reached? Timely accessibility of PSC services, either on-site or via telemedicine, should be the first priority; this can ensure that thrombolytic therapy will be initiated in a rapid manner...."

See p. 1188

Antibodies to GABA_A receptor α 1 and γ 2 subunits: Clinical and serologic characterization



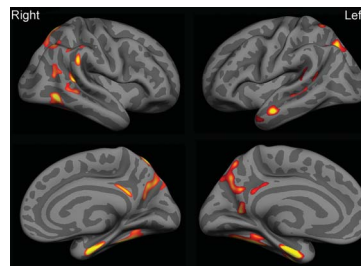
Using immunoprecipitation from neuronal cultures and tandem mass spectrometry, the authors identified antibodies against the α 1 subunit of the GABA_A receptor in a patient whose immunoglobulin G antibodies bound to hippocampal neurons. The explosion of neuronal surface antibodies is exciting, but the associated phenotypes are also expanding and treatment responses need to be assessed in future studies.

See p. 1233

From editorialists Steiner & Ruegg: "Are there patients with chronic neurologic conditions or acute CNS damage...who might develop a similar abnormality? A recent study detected antineuronal autoantibodies of any subtype in high prevalence in normal persons as well as neuropsychiatric patients, questioning their role in pathogenesis of brain diseases. For all these reasons, the clinical importance of the antibodies reported in the present study requires additional proof."

See p. 1192

Spatially distinct atrophy is linked to β -amyloid and tau in preclinical Alzheimer disease



In a cohort of cognitively normal participants, the authors measured the hippocampal volume and cortical thickness within independently defined Alzheimer disease (AD) signature regions. Spatially distinct neurodegeneration may exist with respect to β -amyloid ($A\beta$) and tau

pathology in preclinical AD; however, $A\beta$ deposition and AD signature cortical atrophy may influence cognition in older individuals.

See p. 1254

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Resting brain activity in disorders of consciousness: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Clinicians are unclear on the importance of functional brain activation studies in patients with disorders of consciousness. The authors performed a meta-analysis of resting functional neuroimaging data that identified consistently impaired activity within discrete midline cortical and subcortical sites, and discussed the implications for the biology of consciousness.

See p. 1272

NB: "IEDs: A concussion and a photo dilemma," see p. e85. To check out other Humanities submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Note discussing 2 cases of congenital myasthenic syndrome with vocal cord paralysis, along with the Resident & Fellow Mystery Case titled "Sawtooth waves: Another normal variant not to over-read as epileptiform discharges."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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