



# In Focus

## Spotlight on the June 9 Issue

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### Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features articles discussing the time from pediatric convulsive status epilepticus onset to antiepileptic drug administration and the feasibility of EEG-guided resections to achieve outcomes comparable to those achieved by standard temporal lobectomy for mesial temporal lobe epilepsy. Another featured article focuses on the prevalence, knowledge, and treatment of transient ischemic attacks in China.

### ARTICLES

#### Neuropsychological effects of levetiracetam and carbamazepine in children with focal epilepsy ▲

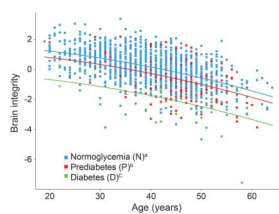
Levetiracetam exerted no adverse effects on cognitive function, but this study failed to demonstrate that levetiracetam causes fewer neurocognitive side effects than carbamazepine. Carbamazepine and levetiracetam are equally safe and effective as monotherapy in children with focal epilepsy.

See p. 2312

From editorialists Nordli & Liou: "Our understanding of the associated comorbid features peculiar to these different situations, and of optimal drug treatments, should mature in a corresponding fashion. We need to know what works best in specific circumstances and what particular cognitive and behavioral issues deserve our vigilance."

See p. 2298

#### Glucose indices are associated with cognitive and structural brain measures in young adults



The authors evaluated the effect of impaired glucose metabolism on the brain by assessing the relationship of diabetes, blood glucose levels, and insulin resistance with cognitive performance and brain integrity

in healthy young and middle-aged adults. They found that hyperglycemia was associated with subtle brain injury and impaired memory, suggesting that brain injury may be an early manifestation of impaired glucose metabolism.

See p. 2329

From editorialists Singh-Manoux & Schmidt: "Rapid urbanization, changes in dietary habits, increasingly sedentary lifestyles, and the rising tide of obesity explain this epidemic. It is urgent to determine the feasibility and benefit of various strategies to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes."

See p. 2300

#### Tetrahydrocannabinol for neuropsychiatric symptoms in dementia: A randomized controlled trial 📖 ▲

Patients with dementia and clinical neuropsychiatric symptoms were randomly assigned to receive tetrahydrocannabinol 1.5 mg or matched placebo 3 times daily for 3 weeks. This trial showed that oral tetrahydrocannabinol was well-tolerated but not effective. However, the favorable adverse event profile of tetrahydrocannabinol in patients with dementia allows for higher-dose studies.

See p. 2338

#### Cardiorespiratory fitness and brain volume and white matter integrity: The CARDIA Study

Cardiorespiratory fitness may influence brain structure and function in middle age. Greater cardiorespiratory fitness was associated with more brain volume and white matter integrity measured 5 years later in 565 participants, and exercise delayed future brain volume and white matter changes in older adulthood.

See p. 2347

NB: "Comprehensive Opportunities for Research and Teaching Experience (CORTEX): A mentorship program," see p. 2372. To check out other Contemporary Issues: Innovations in Education articles, point your browser to [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org). At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImages discussing ischemic stroke after pellet embolization and infantile basal ganglia stroke after mild head trauma. This week also includes a Humanities story titled "Silvia's blessing."

Podcasts can be accessed at [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org)

# Neurology<sup>®</sup>

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