



In Focus

Spotlight on the October 18 issue

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Notable in Neurology

This issue features an article that characterizes the frequency of and risk factors for out-of-hospital sudden neurologic deaths and another that examines the role of thyroid function in dementia, cognitive function, and subclinical vascular brain disease. A review article quantifies the magnitude of deficits in theory of mind and facial emotion recognition among patients with multiple sclerosis compared to controls.

ARTICLES

Mechanisms of memory impairment in epilepsy depend on age at disease onset

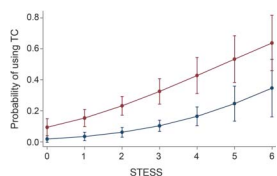
This study demonstrates that memory impairment in people with focal epilepsy differs depending on when their seizures emerged. Memory impairment in childhood-onset disease was linked to neurologic factors, while adult-onset disease was linked to psychiatric factors. These findings support the idea that in practice, subtyping patients based on clinical characteristics may allow the discovery of individualized sources of cognitive disorder.

See p. 1642

From editorialists Barr & Jones: "If the field continues to develop an understanding of the neurologic, cognitive, and neuropsychiatric phenotypes of epilepsy, we may be able to identify the neural substrates that are involved and provide a better understanding of how epilepsy affects function across the lifespan."

See p. 1634

Therapeutic coma for status epilepticus: Differing practices in a prospective multicenter study



In this multicenter cohort, therapeutic coma was used more frequently in some hospitals, despite comparable status epilepticus severity. While this did not influence mortality,

therapeutic coma independently increased length of hospital stay by 60%. Future trials are needed to clarify the therapeutic value of therapeutic coma.

See p. 1650

From editorialists Hocker & Abou-Khalil: "It is possible that with excellent adherence to current guidelines, the need for anesthetic drugs may be reduced, reserving them, as the authors advocate, for only the most refractory cases of status epilepticus."

See p. 1636

Calcium supplementation and risk of dementia in women with cerebrovascular disease

This study showed that calcium supplementation may increase the risk of developing dementia in older women with cerebrovascular disease. These findings should be confirmed before any recommendations can be made. However, in women with cerebrovascular disease and osteoporosis, clinicians may consider this new information and assess risks and benefits in each patient.

See p. 1674

CLINICAL/SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Medical decisions are independent of cognitive impairment in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

In this case report, the authors screened patients for cognition by using the Edinburgh Cognitive and Behavioral ALS Screen. Their results indicated that patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, despite moderate cognitive or behavioral impairment, may still be competent in making care decisions. Further studies are needed.

See p. 1737

NB: "Exacerbation of headache during dihydroergotamine for chronic migraine does not alter outcome," see p. e196. To check out other Resident & Fellow Journal Club submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImage discussing linear scleroderma en coup de sabre presenting with positional diplopia and enophthalmos and another on extensive dural ectasia. This week also includes a Clinical/Scientific Note titled "Ultra-early onset of ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament with congenital rickets."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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