



In Focus

Spotlight on the July 12 Issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article providing new insights into the role of markers for response to interferon- β therapy in multiple sclerosis, and another investigating the involvement of small nerve fiber in Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. A featured article focuses on whether diffusion tensor imaging indices of white matter integrity would offer early markers of retrograde trans-synaptic degeneration in the visual system following stroke.

ARTICLES

Reduced inflammation in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis after therapy switch to rituximab ▲

The monoclonal antibody rituximab emerged as a safe and effective alternative for treatment of multiple sclerosis. In this study, shift from first-line injectables to rituximab was followed by reduced inflammatory activity measured by MRI and CSF neurofilaments. Future therapeutic goals may comprise not only freedom from relapses, but also reduced subclinical inflammation.

See p. 141

Disease burden and functional outcomes in congenital myotonic dystrophy: A cross-sectional study

The natural history of congenital myotonic dystrophy is poorly understood. This study recruited children with congenital myotonic dystrophy and controls to evaluate cognition, quality of life, physical function, and oral strength. Children with congenital myotonic dystrophy demonstrated differences in all measures, compared to controls, though strength measures did not correlate with IQ. Measures that differed improved with age, suggesting the possibility of mitigation approaches.

See p. 160

Cholinergic and perfusion brain networks in Parkinson disease dementia OPEN

Cholinergic dysfunction is a feature of Parkinson disease dementia. Using spatial covariance methods applied to ¹²³I-iodo-quinclidinyl-benzilate SPECT data, the authors identified a M1/M4 cholinergic network in patients with Parkinson disease dementia that mapped onto cholinesterase inhibitor treatment response. As a response biomarker, this may help with the development of new cholinergic therapies.

See p. 178

Autism and epilepsy: A population-based nationwide cohort study 📖

This study emphasizes the relationship between epilepsy and autism. The authors found an increased risk of autism in 85,201 individuals with epilepsy, as well as in their siblings and offspring, suggesting shared etiology and an overlapping inheritance. When assessing mental difficulties in patients with epilepsy, screening for autism is important.

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From editorialists Scott & Tuchman: "Although the findings in this study do not directly lead to novel interventions, they certainly open the door for studies to address treatment, and clearly emphasize the importance of early screening for neurodevelopmental disorders in all children with epilepsy, specifically autism spectrum disorders."

See p. 130

NB: "A tale of a hypotonic infant": see p. e11. To check out other Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning 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 NeuroImages discussing magnetic resonance neurography of a vagal neuropathy and the rupture of vertebral artery dissection aneurysm during 3D digital subtraction angiography. This week also includes a Humanities contribution titled "One Little Mind, Our Lie, Dr. Lie."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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