



## In Focus

### Spotlight on the November 15 issue

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Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>



#### Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article investigating the safety and efficacy of rituximab in multiple sclerosis and another assessing the safety and feasibility of real-time MRI for evaluation of dysphagia in patients with inclusion body myositis. A featured article analyzes the risk of clinical onset of myasthenia gravis in pregnancy and during the first 6 months postpartum.

#### ARTICLES

##### **Aerobic exercise and vascular cognitive impairment: A randomized controlled trial** ▲

Vascular cognitive impairment (VCI) is the second most common cause of dementia. In this study, 70 older adults with VCI received either aerobic exercise or usual care, with those who received aerobic exercise showing improved cognitive performance. The magnitude of benefit was similar to previous pharmaceutical trials, suggesting that aerobic exercise appears beneficial for VCI.

**See p. 2082**

*From editorialists Foubert-Samier & Flicker: "Despite these limitations, the results of this work provide a proof of concept of the effect of physical activities on cognition in patients with vascular cognitive impairment and encourage further studies on larger groups of people with vascular cognitive impairment."*

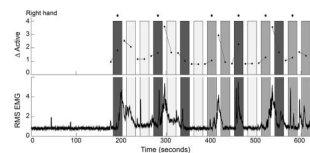
**See p. 2072**

##### **Increasing comorbidity and health services utilization in older adults with prior stroke**

The authors characterize comorbid chronic conditions by describing health services use and estimating health care costs in community-dwelling older adults with prior stroke. Their findings demonstrate the importance of community-based patient-centered care strategies for stroke survivors that address their range of health needs and prevent more costly acute care use.

**See p. 2091**

##### **Electromyographic decoding of response to command in disorders of consciousness**



The authors developed an objective and observer-independent method in detecting command-following, a keystone in the diagnosis of severely brain-injured patients.

Their analysis detected responses to command using EMG in 19 out of 19 patients, including 8 without noticeable movements. This approach may reduce the higher misdiagnosis rate in this population.

**See p. 2099**

##### **Death with dignity in Washington patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis** 📖

In Washington State, where the Death with Dignity (DWD) Act was established in 2009, 39 patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis requested DWD from the University of Washington, Virginia Mason, and Swedish Medical Centers. Although a small number, ALS represented the disease with the highest proportion of patients seeking to participate in DWD.

**See p. 2117**

*NB: "The neurologist's blessing," see p. e243. To check out other Resident & Fellow Right Brain submissions, point your browser to [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org) and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImage examining recurrent cryptogenic stroke in a young adult and its link to congenital left ventricular diverticulum and another about an intramedullary solitary fibrous tumor. This week's issue also includes a Clinical Implications for Scientific Research article titled "Mediodorsal nucleus and its multiple cognitive functions."*

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

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