



In Focus

Spotlight on the December 6 issue

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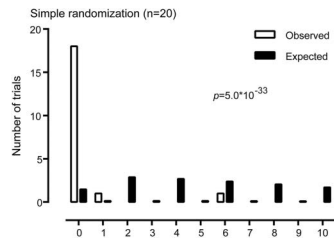


Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that evaluates the long-term benefit and safety of everolimus for the treatment of medically refractory epilepsy in patients with tuberous sclerosis complex and another that determines whether patients could self-report physical and mental health assessments in the waiting room and if these assessments were associated with modified Rankin Scale and Quality-of-Life in Epilepsy scores. A featured article defines the peripheral neuropathy phenotypes associated with Castleman disease.

ARTICLES

Systematic review and statistical analysis of the integrity of 33 randomized controlled trials



Statistical techniques may investigate data integrity in randomized controlled trials (RCTs). The authors analyzed human RCTs undertaken by a group of researchers, about which there were concerns. A systematic approach using

statistical techniques to assess randomization outcomes may evaluate data integrity, in this case suggesting some of these RCT results may be unreliable.

See p. 2391

From editorialist Robert A. Gross: "Fraud in an individual article may be difficult to detect. Peer review, being a human process, can never be perfect; further, the detection of likely fraudulent activity in the article by Bolland et al. required analysis of many trials. As such, it is unlikely that detection of fraud could have occurred during the review of single articles. Further, simply because this group analysis suggested the likelihood of fraudulent activity, one cannot conclude that any one study—among those in the analysis—is, or is not, fraudulent. The authors were careful to avoid any deductions about individual studies, especially as there were multiple authors within the research group."

See p. 2388

A human brain network derived from coma-causing brainstem lesions

Though disorders of consciousness may be catastrophic, little is known about the neural substrates that support human consciousness. Coma-causing brainstem lesions disrupt a small region in the pontine tegmentum, a region functionally connected to the anterior insula and anterior cingulate, implicating this brain network in human consciousness.

See p. 2427

Asymptomatic Alzheimer disease: Defining resilience

Fluid biomarkers are best leveraged in conjunction with widely used clinical protocols. Latent variables of resilience predicted a decreased risk of conversion, slower cognitive decline, and slower rates of ventricular dilation in clinically normal individuals. These findings may enhance our ability to identify novel molecular pathways that may prevent Alzheimer disease.

See p. 2443

Sleep problems and hypothalamic dopamine D3 receptor availability in Parkinson disease

The authors investigated the relationship between hypothalamic D3 dopamine receptor availability and severity of sleep problems in Parkinson disease. If their preliminary findings are confirmed in larger cohorts of patients with polysomnographic characterization, selective pharmacologic modulation of the dopaminergic D3 system may be used to increase daytime alertness in patients with Parkinson disease.

See p. 2451

NB: "NMDA receptor encephalitis and other antibody-mediated disorders of the synapse: The 2016 Cotzias Lecture" and "What can we do for people with drug-resistant epilepsy? The 2016 Wartenberg Lecture," p. 2471 and p. 2483. To check out other AAN Special Articles, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the *NeuroImage* discussing a giant dumbbell-shaped primitive neuroectodermal tumor in the brain and another about multidisciplinary treatment of a giant scalp nevus with intracranial extension. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Clinical Reasoning article titled "An unusual cause of indeterminate spells."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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Neurology 2016;87;2387

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003394

This information is current as of December 5, 2016

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