



In Focus

Spotlight on the May 23 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article reporting clinical trial results on the efficacy and safety of deutetrabenazine as a treatment for tardive dyskinesia and another that demonstrates that small areas of the cortex may drive seizures and interictal disturbances. A featured review delves into the debate on the best treatment for asymptomatic carotid stenosis.

ARTICLES

Vagotomy and Parkinson disease: A Swedish register-based matched-cohort study OPEN

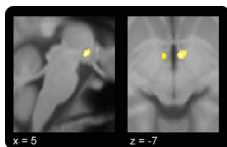
This matched-cohort study provides preliminary evidence that Parkinson pathogenesis may start in the gut. Using linked Swedish registers, the authors found that truncal vagotomy was associated with a lower Parkinson risk. Parkinson pathology may begin in the gut and spread to the brain via the vagus nerve.

See p. 1996

From editorialists Borghammer and Hamani: "...the time has come to seriously consider the implications of these findings. Could it be true that α -synuclein misfolding in PD may originate in the autonomic nerve terminals of the gastrointestinal tract?"

See p. 1982

Hypothalamus as a mediator of chronic migraine: Evidence from high-resolution fMRI



Using high-resolution fMRI, this study revealed increased anterior hypothalamic responses to painful trigeminal stimulation in chronic migraineurs compared to healthy controls, whereas the posterior

hypothalamus is involved in the acute pain stage of migraineurs. These results suggest an important role of the hypothalamus for migraine chronification and headache sustainment.

See p. 2011

Pregabalin use early in pregnancy and the risk of major congenital malformations BOOK

Using data from infants whose mothers were prescribed pregabalin during the first trimester, the authors disprove the previously suggested 3-fold increased risk of congenital malformations. Pregabalin use in early pregnancy is not associated with a meaningful increased risk of congenital malformations, although a modest increase cannot be ruled out.

See p. 2020

Effect of a long-term intensive lifestyle intervention on prevalence of cognitive impairment UPWARD TRIANGLE

Type 2 diabetes mellitus and midlife obesity increase risk of cognitive impairment. The authors assessed whether random assignment to a successful 10-year lifestyle weight loss intervention, compared with controls, altered the prevalence of cognitive impairment. No overall differences were seen; however, there was evidence that effects varied by level of obesity.

See p. 2026

From editorialists Camicioli and Driscoll: "The authors should be applauded for conducting a challenging study that might provide a basis for future work."

See p. 1984

NB: "Recurrent belly dancer dyskinesia in pregnancy," p. 2066. To check out other Video NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Section Child Neurology article discussing LAMA2 muscular dystrophy without contractures and the Teaching NeuroImage on intraspinal synovial cyst causing Brown-Séquard syndrome. This week also includes a Reflections short story in prose titled "Godless State."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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