In Focus

Spotlight on the July 11 issue

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*®

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that suggests a role for coated platelets in predicting stroke after TIA and another that establishes the implementation of standard operating procedures as a realistic option for improving quality of neurologic emergency management in under-resourced settings. A featured article addresses rates of decline in specific muscle groups of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

ARTICLES

Structural MRI markers of brain aging early after ischemic stroke OPEN

Stroke and vascular risk factors are associated with accelerated brain aging, cognitive decline, and dementia. In this study, first-ever stroke patients had smaller hippocampi and greater white matter hyperintensities (WMH) than controls; patients with recurrent stroke again had smaller hippocampi. Vascular neurodegeneration manifests as imaging features (atrophy, WMHs) and cognitive impairment.

See p. 116

From editorialists Knopman and Hooshmand: "In asserting that the stroke itself serves as an indicator of a pathophysiologic process that preceded the stroke, Werden et al. are endorsing a model of cerebrovascular pathophysiology that represents a major departure from the approach that has dominated the field for the last 40 years."

See p. 110

A randomized trial of telemedicine efficacy and safety for nonacute headaches OPEN

The authors illustrate that telemedicine consultations for patients with headache are not inferior to traditional consultations. No difference was identified between telemedicine and traditional consultations during a 12-month study. Telemedicine is a safe, and possibly more accessible and available, alternative for patients with headache.

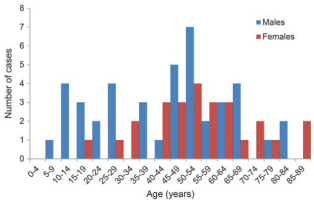
See p. 153, Comment 161

Modulation of intrinsic resting-state fMRI networks in women with chronic migraine

Aiming to reduce the burden of chronic migraine, the authors identified a link between the clinical characteristics of chronic migraine and decreased connectivity in 3 major intrinsic functional brain networks: default mode, salience, and central executive. These findings may guide development of new treatments to modulate networks for management of chronic migraine.

See p. 163

The incidence of SUDEP: A nationwide population-based cohort study



This study shows that sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP) occurs at all ages and that the risk in children and those >50 years of age is considerably higher than previously thought. Patients with psychiatric comorbidities, particularly women, have increased SUDEP risk. SUDEP risk has been underestimated, especially in young boys and older adults, regardless of sex.

See p. 170

From editorialists Buchhalter and Cascino: "The epidemiologic research of Sveinsson et al. has made a substantial contribution to our understanding of the age distribution and risk factors for SUDEP, thereby providing potential interventions and research directions for this most tragic of all outcomes for individuals coping with epilepsy and their loved ones."

See p. 114

NB: "Dramatic improvement of tardive dyskinesia movements by inline skating," p. 211. To check out other Video NeuroImages, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the Clinical/Scientific Note discussing a case in which alemtuzumab failed to control myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein–immunoglobulin G encephalomyelitis. This week also includes a Reflections: Neurology and the Humanities poem titled "The entire world."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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