



In Focus

Spotlight on the August 15 issue

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Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article that explicates a genetic syndrome that combines myasthenic features and severe neurodegeneration with therapy-refractory epilepsy and another that identifies seizure semiology in children with absence epilepsy. A featured Views & Reviews article discusses the effects of exercise interventions on fitness, cardiometabolic health, and bone health in adults with spinal cord injury.

ARTICLES

Automatic measurement of prosody in behavioral variant FTN

An automated speech analysis method can aid clinicians in diagnosing and monitoring patients with behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD). The authors detected a reduction in speech intonation in individuals with bvFTD associated with specific neuroanatomic correlates of language. Acoustic measurements of prosody could promote dysprosody research and the clinical evaluation of patients with neurodegenerative conditions.

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From editorialists Leyton and Hillis: "Although a large-scale implementation of automatic acoustic measures can be daunting, this study has delivered promising outcomes that potentially can be translated in clinical practice as an efficient and reliable ancillary diagnostic tool."

See p. 644

Transcranial magnetic stimulation distinguishes Alzheimer disease from frontotemporal dementia

The authors analyzed diagnostic accuracy of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) in distinguishing Alzheimer disease (AD) from frontotemporal dementia (FTD). TMS assessment of intracortical circuits showed a specific impairment of GABAergic and glutamatergic transmission in FTD, and cholinergic transmission in AD. TMS distinguishes AD from FTD with high diagnostic accuracy.

See p. 665

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

Cardiovascular health status in young adulthood and brain structural imaging in midlife: The CARDIA study

Individuals who met ideal levels for 7 modifiable cardiovascular health behaviors and factors during young adulthood were observed and had greater whole brain volume in midlife. This emphasizes the importance of achieving and maintaining ideal cardiovascular health at a young age so as to achieve favorable cerebral structure in later adulthood.

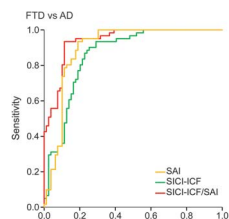
See p. 680

Long-term antithrombotic treatment in intracranial hemorrhage survivors with atrial fibrillation

In a comprehensive literature search of observational studies, anticoagulation with vitamin K antagonists was associated with a lower rate of ischemic stroke than antiplatelet agents or no antithrombotic medication without increasing intracranial hemorrhage. A randomized controlled trial could identify the net clinical benefit of anticoagulation.

See p. 687

NB: "Teaching Video NeuroImages: The underrecognized diphasic dyskinesia of Parkinson disease," p. e83. To check out other Resident & Fellow Section Teaching Video NeuroImages, 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 Clinical/Scientific Note discussing a case of valosin-containing protein mutation involvement in early-onset Parkinson disease. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Journal Club article titled "Long-term functional outcome in patients with acquired infections after acute spinal cord injury."



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