In Focus

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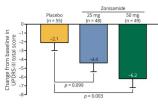


Notable in Neurology this week

This issue features an article that discusses the contribution of electrophysiologic testing to the diagnosis and anatomic classification of myoclonus; another determines the relationships among white matter hyperintensities, temporal lobe atrophy, and verbal memory deficits in Alzheimer disease. A featured article explores brain and cervical cord changes in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis due to *SOD1* mutation.

Articles

Adjunct zonisamide to levodopa for DLB parkinsonism: A randomized double-blind phase 2 study



Although levodopa is considered the standard therapy for parkinsonism, a core clinical feature of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), it has a risk of inducing psychiatric symptoms. Zonisamide (adjunctive to levodopa) improved DLB parkinsonism without exacerbating psychiatric symptoms. Zonisamide could be an alternative to levodopa dose increase for treating DLB parkinsonism.

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From editorialists Hershey and Irwin: "The successful execution of this trial is a major accomplishment and provides evidence of feasibility for future trials that are urgently needed to develop new therapeutics for DLB."

Page 349

Intravenous thrombolysis and platelet count

In this large register-based study, platelet count was independently associated with functional outcome and bleeding complications in IV thrombolysis—treated patients with stroke. Decreasing platelet count was associated with occurrence of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage, but also with lower risk of poor outcome and mortality. The authors urge cautious interpretation of the study results.

Page 359

Posthemorrhagic ventricular dilation in preterm infants: When best to intervene?

Posthemorrhagic ventricular dilation (PHVD) leads to substantial neurodevelopmental impairment in preterm neonates, yet the time for intervention remains undecided for progressive PHVD. Early intervention, based on ultrasound measurements of ventricular size, was associated with markedly better outcomes. Treatment of PHVD should not be delayed until the onset of clinical symptoms.

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From editorialists Myers and Cowan: "This study provides persuasive evidence, based on neuro-developmental outcomes, to support EA before clinical signs of increased IP appear."

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Continued

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In Focus

Neurofilament light protein in blood predicts regional atrophy in Huntington disease

This article provides evidence for the association between neurofilament light (NfL) protein and neural pathology in Huntington disease (HD) gene expansion carriers. Voxel-based morphometry was used to examine the relationship of NfL and HD neuropathology. NfL measured in blood is a sensitive independent predictor of subsequent neural atrophy in HD. Page 362

NB: "A genotype-phenotype correlation for quantitative autistic trait burden in neurofibromatosis 1," p. 377. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology. org/N. At the end of the issue, check out the NeuroImage illustrating carotid artery stenting confirmation using optical coherence tomography. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Pearls and Oy-sters titled "Delayed progression of isolated cortical vein thrombosis despite therapeutic INR."

NEW EPISODE



February 20, 2018

CME Opportunity:

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Intravenous thrombolysis and platelet count (see p. 359)

- 1. Featured Article: Intravenous thrombolysis and platelet count
- 2. What's Trending: Gene drives, part I

This podcast begins and closes with Dr. Robert Gross, Editor-in-Chief, briefly discussing highlighted articles from the February 20, 2018, issue of *Neurology*. In the first segment, Dr. Kevin Barrett talks with Dr. Henrik Gensicke about his article on the effect of platelet count on bleeding risk and mortality in stroke patients treated with IV thrombolysis. In the second part of the podcast, you'll hear the first part of Dr. Ted Burns' interview with Dr. Kevin Esvelt about gene drives.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org/Podcast.



Spotlight on the February 20 issue

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