In Focus

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



Notable in Neurology this week

This issue features an article that describes the effectiveness of closure vs antiplatelet agent vs oral anticoagulation therapy for patent foramen ovale; another provides an anatomical-cognitive framework of incident poststroke dementia. A featured article examines whether temporal lobe epilepsy leads to subcortical arousal center dysfunction, possibly contributing to neocortical connectivity and neurocognitive disturbances.

Articles

Conscious sedation or local anesthesia during endovascular treatment for acute ischemic stroke

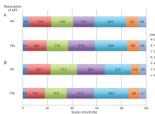
Anesthetic support is commonly used during treatment procedures for acute ischemic stroke. In this study, conscious sedation was associated with worse functional outcomes and increased mortality compared to local anesthesia. In patients undergoing mechanical thrombectomy for stroke, conscious sedation should be avoided when local anesthesia is possible.

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From editorialists Rabinstein & Kallmes: "These provocative results deserve attention. If reproduced in larger, controlled trials, they could signal a major change in patient care."

Page 16

Restarting antiplatelet therapy after spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage: Functional outcomes



Clinicians are frequently faced with the decision of whether or not to restart antiplatelet therapy (APT) after intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH). Restarting APT in patients with ICH is not associated with worse functional outcomes. In patients with cardiovascular risk factors, restarting APT remains at the discretion of the treating practitioner.

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Hypertension and intracerebral hemorrhage recurrence among white, black, and Hispanic individuals

Survivors of intracerebral hemorrhage often develop recurrent hemorrhagic stroke, with hypertension representing the main risk factor. In this longitudinal study, black and Hispanic patients were at higher recurrence risk, regardless of hypertension severity. Minority intracerebral hemorrhage survivors are a high-risk group, deserving additional focus in clinical and research practice.

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In Focus

Incidence of cardiac fibrosis in SUDEP and control cases

In a consecutive autopsy cohort of sudden death, cardiac pathology was less severe in sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP) cases compared to sudden arrhythmogenic death, but similar to trauma and epilepsy controls. These results do not support prior findings of elevated cardiac fibrosis rates among SUDEP cases, and suggest that structural cardiac anomalies do not contribute to SUDEP.

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NB: "Rolling stones sign as hard and fast evidence of calcified cerebral emboli," p. 41. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to Neurology.org/N. At the end of the issue, check out the Video NeuroImage illustrating spinal myoclonus affecting the platysma after cervical laminectomy. This week also includes a Resident & Fellow Pearls & Oy-sters titled "Alternating hemiplegia of childhood mimics focal epilepsy and paroxysmal dyskinesia in infancy."

NEW EPISODE



July 3, 2018

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Conscious sedation or local anesthesia during endovascular treatment for acute ischemic stroke (see p. 23)

- 1. Featured Article: Conscious sedation or local anesthesia during endovascular treatment for acute ischemic stroke
- 2. Lesson of the Week: Functional disorders

This podcast begins and closes with Dr. Robert Gross, Editor-in-Chief, briefly discussing highlighted articles from the July 3, 2018, issue of *Neurology*. In the first segment, Dr. Brian Eckerle talks with Dr. Rob van de Graaf about his paper on conscious sedation vs local anesthesia during endovascular treatment for ischemic stroke. For the "What's Trending" segment, Dr. David Lapides and Dr. Jon Stone continue their discussion of functional disorders.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org/podcast.



Spotlight on the July 3 issue

Robert A. Gross *Neurology* 2018;91;1-2
DOI 10.1212/WNL.000000000005753

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