

José G. Merino, MD, MPhil, Editor-in-Chief, *Neurology*[®]



Notable in *Neurology* This Week

This issue features an article that investigates the comparative effectiveness of switching or limiting overused acute medications when adding preventive agents in patients with chronic migraine; another examines the association between evolving white matter hyperintensities, cognition, and function after stroke. A featured Special Article presents outcome measures for measuring seizure frequency in patients with epilepsy.

Research Articles

Association of Acute Alteration of Consciousness in Patients With Acute Ischemic Stroke With Outcomes and Early Withdrawal of Care

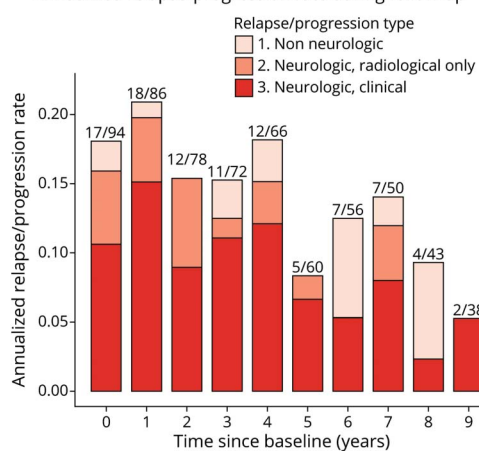
Early consciousness disorder (ECD) may influence the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment in patients with acute stroke. In this study, patients with ECD had worse discharge outcomes and higher withdrawal of care. Mortality in ischemic strokes was largely driven by the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment in patients with ECD.

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Prognostic Factors and Treatment Efficacy in Spinal Cord

Sarcoidosis: An Observational Cohort With Long-term Follow-up

Annualized relapse/progression rate during follow-up



Researchers studied prognostic factors and treatment efficacy in 97 patients diagnosed with definite, probable, or possible spinal cord sarcoidosis who were followed for a median of 8 years. Tumor necrosis factor α antagonists were associated with a lower relapse or progression rate compared with corticosteroids alone and methotrexate was associated with better outcomes than azathioprine.

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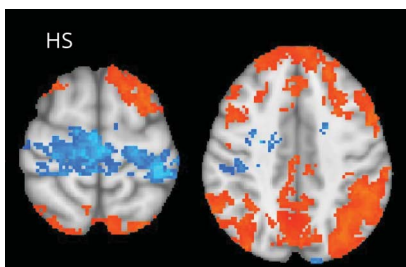
Neurofilament Light Chain Levels in Anti-NMDAR Encephalitis and Primary Psychiatric Psychosis

Without determining CSF antibodies, it is challenging to differentially diagnose first onset of psychosis caused by NMDAR encephalitis vs that caused by a psychiatric disease. This observational study found that people with NMDAR encephalitis had serum neurofilament light chain levels (NfLs) significantly increased compared to the psychiatric cases. NfLs were also associated with NMDAR encephalitis symptom severity.

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Continued

Focal Dystonia: Functional Connectivity Changes in Cerebellar–Basal Ganglia–Cortical Circuit and Preserved Global Functional Architecture



In this cross-sectional study, cervical dystonia and blepharospasm exhibited common and distinguishing patterns of cerebellar and pallidal resting-state functional connectivity with regions of the integrated cerebellar–basal ganglia–cortical circuit, in the context of preserved global functional architecture. Functional alterations of specific circuits supported the concept of focal dystonia as a network disorder.

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NB: “COVID-19–Related Outcomes in Primary Mitochondrial Diseases: An International Study,” p. 576. To check out other Clinical/Scientific Notes, point your browser to [Neurology.org](https://www.neurology.org). At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Section Pearls & Oysters article discussing bilateral neuralgic amyotrophy in a patient with *Bartonella henselae* infection. This week also includes a Humanities in Neurology piece titled “Walking Is Falling.”

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Spotlight on the April 5 Issue

José G. Merino

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