



In Focus

Spotlight on the March 31 Issue

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

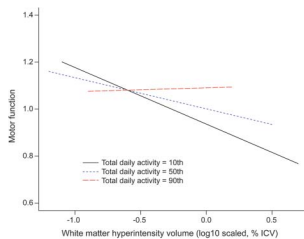


Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features several articles on epilepsy. The first article discusses how increased motor evoked potential polyphasia in patients with idiopathic generalized epilepsy and their first-degree relatives may reflect transient abnormal evoked oscillations, and the second discusses how the GABA_Aγ2(R43Q) mutation affects cortical microcircuitry in the cortex of human genetic epilepsy. Another featured article focuses on stroke caregiving and its association with persistent psychological distress.

ARTICLES

Physical activity, motor function, and white matter hypertensity burden in healthy older adults



Higher brain white matter hypertensity burden was associated with lower motor function in persons with average or low total daily activity but was unrelated in persons with high total daily activity. A more active lifestyle may protect motor function from brain pathology in older age.

See p. 1294

From editorialists Camicioli & Verghese: "Studies that examine lifetime physical activity, including midlife and childhood activity, similar to parallel studies of cognitive activity may provide further insights into the role of physical activity on late-life cognitive and motor function."

See p. 1288

Glycated albumin predicts the effect of dual and single antiplatelet therapy on recurrent stroke

The value of glycated albumin levels in patients taking 1 or 2 antiplatelet agents was examined after adjustments for age, sex, and other conventional factors, including diabetes. Glycated albumin may be used as a biomarker predicting recurrent stroke in persons with minor stroke or TIA taking dual and single antiplatelet therapy.

See p. 1330; Comment, p. 1334

Neuropsychological outcome after deep brain stimulation for Parkinson disease

Patients received either globus pallidus pars interna deep brain stimulation (DBS) or subthalamic nucleus DBS, and standardized neuropsychological tests were performed at baseline and after 12 months. There were no differences in neuropsychological outcome between globus pallidus pars interna DBS and subthalamic nucleus DBS, and there was no satisfactory explanation for the predictive value of semantic fluency for cognitive decline.

See p. 1355; Comment, p. 1360

Epstein-Barr virus genetic variants are associated with multiple sclerosis

The authors proposed new approaches for risk profiling in multiple sclerosis (MS) based on measures other than genetic testing or MRI biomarkers. The association between Epstein-Barr virus variants and MS suggests broader connections with viruses, which will need verification as technology advances. Linking the risk of MS to specific etiologies will have implications for prevention.

See p. 1362

NB: "Education Research: A case-based bioethics curriculum for neurology residents," see p. e91. To check out other Resident & Fellow submissions, 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 *NeuroImages* discussing a case of disseminated oligodendroglial-like leptomeningeal tumor and the characteristic imaging findings in encephalocraniocutaneous lipomatosis, along with the AAN Special Article titled "Evidence-based guideline summary: Evaluation, diagnosis, and management of congenital muscular dystrophy."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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