



In Focus

Spotlight on the September 13 Issue

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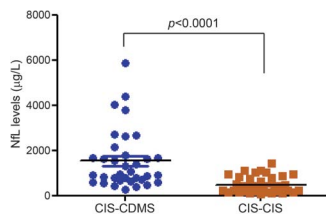


Notable in *Neurology*

This issue features an article exploring headache in ischemic stroke patients and the role of large vessel atherosclerosis, blood clot extent, and penumbra volume and another article investigating late-onset depressive symptoms in a small vessel disease population and the risk of dementia. A featured article correlates long-term lenalidomide neurotoxicity with cumulative dose and hematologic response.

ARTICLES

Neurofilament light chain level is a weak risk factor for the development of MS OPEN



Increased neurofilament light chain levels in clinically isolated syndromes was an independent risk factor for the development of multiple sclerosis (MS), but oligoclonal bands and MRI were better predictors. Neurofilament light chain levels are a weak risk factor for MS, and these findings suggest their potential use

as markers of axonal damage, which merits further examination.

See p. 1076

From editorialists Khalil and Salzer: "These findings are promising but need to be replicated. As this assay allows determination of neurofilament light in serum, it would certainly facilitate repeated follow-up measurements and make it easier to incorporate this interesting biomarker into the toolbox of instruments to monitor disease activity in MS."

See p. 1068

Task-dependent deterioration of balance underpinning cognitive-postural interference in MS

The authors investigated whether concurrent cognitive task (if any) had the most detrimental effect on balance control of patients with MS. Their findings support the hypothesis that MS-related damage constrains brain networks in both postural control and executive functions.

See p. 1085; Comment p. 1090

Predicting Alzheimer disease from a blood-based biomarker profile: A 54-month follow-up OPEN

Detecting early-stage Alzheimer disease (AD) is critical, allowing interventions before irreversible damage occurs. The authors demonstrated that a small panel of blood biomarkers may detect early-stage AD by identifying high neocortical β -amyloid and accurately predicting cognitive decline and disease progression. This finding provides a noninvasive tool for population screening and preclinical trial recruitment.

See p. 1093

Physician-assisted death: A Canada-wide survey of ALS health care providers OPEN

Physician-assisted death (PAD) was recently legalized in Canada and may alter end-of-life decisions for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This Canada-wide survey of front-line ALS health care providers revealed little consensus of opinions regarding PAD access. While most support PAD for patients with moderate to severe ALS, few are willing to provide it directly.

See p. 1152

From editorialists Katz and Mitsumoto: "Patients may become distressed when they learn that the practitioner has distinct personal interests or beliefs about taking the final step. Taken to an extreme, new laws may open a path to a Kevorkian-like environment, where self-selected PAD providers and ALS centers work under distinct policies and rely on inefficient or inconsistent referral procedures."

See p. 1072

VIEWS & REVIEWS

Zoonotic bacterial meningitis in human adults

Bacterial meningitis patients with exposure to animals or livestock may be infected with zoonotic pathogens. The authors describes when to think of zoonotic bacterial meningitis, how clinical presentation may differ from non-zoonotic bacterial meningitis, what antibiotic treatment needs to be initiated, and what complications may be expected from these specific pathogens.

See p. 1171

NB: "W. Ritchie Russell, A.B. Baker, and Fred Plum: Pioneers of ventilator management in poliomyelitis," see p. 1167. To check out other *Historical Neurology* submissions, point your browser to Neurology.org. At the end of the issue, check out the *NeuroImages* discussing arteriovenous fistula mimicking vestibular schwannoma and cough tremor as a presenting symptom of intraventricular tumor. This week also includes a *Humanities* piece titled "On family meetings."

Podcasts can be accessed at Neurology.org

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