In Focus

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



Notable in Neurology this week

This issue features an article that investigates well-being and end-of-life preferences in patients in the locked-in state due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; another determines the role of genetic variation at the *DMPK* locus on symptomatic diversity in patients with myotonic dystrophy type 1. A featured Medical Hypothesis examines whether cardiac injury sustained in recurrent seizures causes cardiac electrical instability and abnormal autonomic tone.

Articles

Urodynamic study for distinguishing multiple system atrophy from Parkinson disease

 α -Synucleinopathies frequently manifest with varying degrees of urologic symptoms. This article discusses the difference in urodynamic measures between multiple system atrophy and Parkinson disease, with a focus on the predictive value for the differential diagnosis. The authors highlight the potential role of urodynamic studies in distinguishing the 2 α -synucleinopathies. Page 426

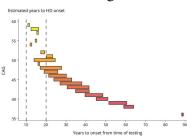
Cognitive impairment across ALS clinical stages in a populationbased cohort

The authors assessed the cognitive correlates of King staging in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Their data support the idea that ALS pathology disseminates in a regional ordered sequence, through a cortico-efferent spreading model. Motor and cognitive components of ALS worsen in parallel; cognitive impairment is more pronounced in persons with bulbar involvement. Page 431

Degree of serotonin reuptake inhibition of antidepressants and ischemic risk: A cohort study

The cardiovascular safety of antidepressants inhibiting serotonin reuptake remains unclear. In this cohort study, strong inhibitors were associated with a slightly decreased risk of ischemic stroke and a similar risk of myocardial infarction compared with weak inhibitors. Choice of antidepressants should be based on effectiveness and nonischemic adverse events. Page 433

Abnormal brain development in child and adolescent carriers of mutant huntingtin



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The CAG repeat expansion that causes Huntington disease (mHTT) also affects brain development, which could have implications for the timing of gene knockdown therapies. Using structural neuroimaging, the authors show that young carriers of mHTT exhibit abnormal striatal development. Neurodegenerative diseases may begin with aberrant development of regional neuronal subpopulations.

MORE ONLINE

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Continued

In Focus

From editorialists Martin & Albin: "Disappointing results or consequential adverse effects should prompt serious consideration of the issues raised by the clinical research of van der Plas et al. and the prior experimental work of the Mehler group."

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NB: "Global & Community Health: Global health at home: Neurologic care for Latinos in South Philadelphia," p. 461. To check out other Resident & Fellow Global & Community Health articles, point your browser to Neurology.org/N and click on the link to the Resident & Fellow Section. At the end of the issue, check out the Resident & Fellow Teaching NeuroImages illustrating cranial neuropathy after clival infarct in a patient with sickle cell disease and frontal lobe streptococcus abscess in a patient presenting with generalized tonic-clonic seizure and headache. This week also includes a NeuroImage titled "Reversible tongue atrophy in Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome."

NEW EPISODE



September 3, 2019

Therapy for acute nerve agent poisoning: An update (see the August 2019 issue of Neurology® Clinical Practice)

- 1. Therapy for acute nerve agent poisoning: An update
- 2. What's Trending: Detection of Brain Activation in Unresponsive Patients with Acute Brain Injury

In the first segment, Dr. Alex Menze talks with Dr. Jonathan Newmark about his *Neurology: Clinical Practice* paper that provides an update on therapy for acute nerve agent poisoning. In the second part of the podcast, Dr. Andrew Schomer focuses his discussion with Dr. Jan Claassen on detection of brain activation in unresponsive patients with acute brain injury. Read the full NEJM article here: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1812757.

Disclosures can be found at Neurology.org.

No CME this week: Interviews based on articles from *Neurology: Clinical Practice, Neurology® Genetics, and Neurology® Neuroimmunology & Neuroinflammation* are excluded from the CME program.



Spotlight on the September 3 issue

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