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IN BRIEF

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Loss of consciousness might affect outcomes of blast-related mild traumatic brain injury

Loss of consciousness (LOC) could influence the degree of white matter damage and cognitive impairment after blast-related mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), according to a new report published in *NeuroImage*. A diffusion tensor imaging study in 114 military veterans found that mTBI with LOC—but not mTBI minus LOC—was associated with spatially heterogeneous white matter abnormalities. In turn, the white matter injury was related to impaired performance on verbal memory tests.

Original article Hayes, J. P. *et al.* The nature of white matter abnormalities in blast-related mild traumatic brain injury. *NeuroImage* doi:10.1016/j.neuroimage.2015.04.001

STROKE

Cohort study identifies risk factors for poststroke suicide

A study in a large Swedish cohort has shown that both clinical and socioeconomic factors contribute to the risk of suicide after stroke. In 220,336 patients with stroke, 1,217 suicide attempts were recorded, 260 of which were fatal. Clinical risk factors for poststroke suicide attempts included severe stroke and poststroke depression. Socioeconomic factors included living alone, and low education and/or income—a similar risk factor profile to that observed for suicide in the general population.

Original article Eriksson, M. *et al.* Poststroke suicide attempts and completed suicides: a socioeconomic and nationwide perspective. *Neurology* doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000001514

EPILEPSY

Benefits and risks of reoperation after failed surgery for intractable epilepsy

Research published in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* indicates that reoperation can be a viable option if initial resective surgery for intractable epilepsy is unsuccessful. However, the potential risks of the procedure must also be taken into account. Of 66 patients who underwent reoperation, 46 were seizure-free at follow-up, although permanent neurological deficits and visual field deficits were observed in 9% and 67%, respectively, of the cohort.

Original article Grote, A. *et al.* A second chance—reoperation in patients with failed surgery for intractable epilepsy: long-term outcome, neuropsychology and complications. *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* doi:10.1136/jnnp-2015-310322

DEMYELINATING DISEASE

CSF analysis could aid prediction of conversion from optic neuritis to multiple sclerosis in children

Oligoclonal IgG bands (OCB) in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) can herald conversion to multiple sclerosis (MS) in children with demyelinating optic neuritis, a new study reveals. In 357 children with isolated optic neuritis, 80.7% of those with CSF OCB subsequently developed MS, compared with only 15.1% of OCB-negative patients. The researchers suggest that CSF analysis could be used in conjunction with cranial MRI to predict conversion to MS in children who present with optic neuritis.

Original article Heussinger, N. *et al.* Oligoclonal bands predict multiple sclerosis in children with optic neuritis. *Ann. Neurol.* doi:10.1002/ana.24409