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# IN BRIEF

## EPILEPSY

### Metabolic syndrome in young adults with epilepsy

Metabolic syndrome (MetS) is common in people with epilepsy, according to a recently published observational study. Of 183 participants with epilepsy (aged 20–49 years), 30% had MetS. The risk of MetS also increased with age; moreover, the study identified valproate use as a risk factor for MetS. About half of the individuals with MetS had abdominal obesity and/or hypertrigyleridaemia. Patients with epilepsy have previously been reported to have increased cardiovascular mortality and morbidity, and the new results implicate MetS as a possible mediating mechanism.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Nair, S. S. *et al.* Metabolic syndrome in young adults with epilepsy. *Seizure* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.seizure.2016.03.002 (2016)

## DEMYELINATING DISEASE

### Novel markers for disease severity in neuromyelitis optica

IL-27 and IL-35 could serve as biomarkers of disease severity in neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSDs), new research suggests. The authors reported that in 45 patients with NMOSD, decreased levels of these cytokines in the serum correlated with increased disease severity; moreover, low levels of IL-27 and IL-35 correlated with spinal cord lesion length and higher annual relapse rate, respectively. The findings implicate IL-27 and IL-35 in NMOSD pathogenesis, and these cytokines might also have value as therapeutic molecules in NMOSD.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Zhang, D-Q. *et al.* Decreased serum IL-27 and IL-35 levels are associated with disease severity in neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders. *J. Neuroimmunol.* **93**, 100–104 (2016)

## NEURO-ONCOLOGY

### Long-term outcomes in childhood low-grade glioma

Paediatric low-grade gliomas have a good prognosis; however, a recent follow-up study of 1,202 children reports that survivors of childhood low-grade glioma are at increased risk of late mortality. Most of the deaths recorded at follow-up (median 13 years) were linked to tumour transformation or non-oncological causes rather than tumour progression. Radiotherapy was the most important risk factor for late all-cause deaths.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Krishnatry, R. *et al.* Clinical and treatment factors determining long-term outcomes for adult survivors of childhood low-grade glioma: a population-based study. *Cancer* http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/cncr.29907 (2016)

## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

### Does low vitamin D level during pregnancy increase the risk of MS?

A new study provides support for the notion that low maternal vitamin D levels during pregnancy could increase risk of MS in the offspring, Munger *et al.* identified 193 individuals with MS whose mothers had provided a serum sample from the pregnancy with the affected child; the serum vitamin D levels in these samples were compared with those from mothers of 331 controls. On average, samples from both groups were in the insufficient vitamin D range; however, mean vitamin D levels were lower in the case samples (13.86 ng/ml) than in the control samples (15.02 ng/ml), and vitamin D deficiency (defined as <12 ng/ml) was linked to a twofold increase in the risk of MS.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Munger, K. L. *et al.* Vitamin D status during pregnancy and risk of multiple sclerosis in offspring of women in the Finnish Maternity Cohort. *JAMA Neurol.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2015.4800 (2016)