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IN BRIEF

STROKE

Thrombolytic removal of intraventricular haemorrhage does not improve outcomes

Intraventricular haemorrhage carries a high risk of mortality and severe disability, and the CLEAR III trial set out to examine whether thrombolytic removal of the haemorrhage could improve patient outcomes. In this placebo-controlled trial, 500 patients with intraventicular haemorrhage were randomly assigned to ventricular irrigation with either alteplase or saline. Although the alteplase treatment resulted in a reduction in case fatality, most of the additional survivors had poor functional outcomes, indicating that this approach has little net benefit.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Hanley, D. F. *et al.* Thrombolytic removal of intraventricular haemorrhage in treatment of severe stroke: results of the randomised, multicentre, multiregion, placebo-controlled CLEAR III trial. *Lancet* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)32410-2 (2017)

MOTOR NEURON DISEASE

Sparing of oligodendrocytes in a mouse model of spinal muscular atrophy

Though ostensibly a motor neuron disease, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is known to affect multiple cell types in the nervous system, including cortical neurons, astrocytes and Schwann cells. However, a new study in mice indicates that oligodendrocyte development and CNS myelination are spared by the disease process. The researchers discovered that oligodendrocyte function was fully preserved in the *Smn1*$^{-/-}$;*SMN2* model of severe SMA. Further study of these cells could provide important insights into mechanisms that protect against SMA.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE O'Meara, R. W. *et al.* Oligodendrocyte development and CNS myelination are unaffected in a mouse model of severe spinal muscular atrophy. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddw385 (2017)

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIES

Atypical Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease linked to sphingosine 1-phosphate lyase deficiency

An atypical form of Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease type 2 observed in a single family has been attributed to a loss-of-function mutation in the sphingosine 1-phosphate lyase (*SPL1*) gene. Affected individuals presented with axonal peripheral neuropathy, which had acute or subacute onset and was characterized by bouts of mononeuropathy. The findings add to the range of known genetic causes of inherited peripheral neuropathies, and underline the role of sphingolipid metabolism in maintaining normal neuronal function.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Atkinson, D. *et al.* Sphingosine 1-phosphate lyase deficiency causes Charcot–Marie–Tooth neuropathy. *Neurology* http://dx.doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000003595 (2017)

MIGRAINE

Migraine is associated with increased risk of perioperative ischaemic stroke

Patients with a history of migraine have a heightened risk of perioperative ischaemic stroke, according to new research published in *The BMJ*. In a prospective hospital-based registry study, migraine was associated with a 1.75-fold increase in the incidence of stroke within 30 days of surgery, and the risk was particularly high in patients who had migraine with aura. In light of these findings, the authors propose that migraine should be included in perioperative risk assessment protocols.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Timm, F. P. *et al.* Migraine and risk of perioperative stroke and hospital readmission: hospital based registry study. *BMJ* **356**, i6635 (2017)