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## IN BRIEF

### NEUROIMMUNOLOGY

#### Phase II trial demonstrates efficacy of erythropoietin in optic neuritis

Erythropoietin, administered as an add-on treatment to methylprednisolone, reduces thinning of the retinal nerve fibre layer (RNFL) and improves functional outcomes in patients with optic neuritis, a new phase II trial shows. 16 weeks after treatment, the RNFL had thinned by a median of 7.5 µm in the erythropoietin group, compared with 16.0 µm in the placebo group. The erythropoietin-treated patients also showed a trend towards better visual function in comparison with the placebo-treated group.

**Original article** Sühs, K.-W. *et al.* A randomized, double-blind, phase II study on erythropoietin in optic neuritis. *Ann. Neurol.* doi:10.1002/ana.23573

### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

#### Cognitive status declines on warmer days in patients with multiple sclerosis

Previous studies have shown that warmer weather is associated with increased lesion activity in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), and new research indicates that cognitive status is also temperature-dependent in people with this condition. In a study involving 40 patients with MS and 40 healthy controls, processing speed and memory were shown to decline on warmer days in the MS patients, but not in the controls. The authors suggest that cognitive status might provide a marker for MS exacerbation.

**Original article** Leavitt, V. M. *et al.* Warmer outdoor temperature is associated with worse cognitive status in multiple sclerosis. *Neurology* 78, 964–968 (2012)

### PARKINSON DISEASE

#### Entorhinal cortex atrophy is associated with dementia in Parkinson disease

Atrophy of the entorhinal cortex (ERC) can differentiate Parkinson disease (PD) patients with dementia from those with normal cognition, according to a report published in *Movement Disorders*. MRI scans revealed that patients with PD dementia had significantly smaller ERC volumes than did cognitively normal patients with PD. By contrast, hippocampal volumes were found to be similar between the two groups. These findings indicate that ERC atrophy could be a specific biomarker for dementia in PD.

**Original article** Goldman J. G. *et al.* Entorhinal cortex atrophy differentiates Parkinson's disease patients with and without dementia. *Mov. Disord.* doi:10.1002/mds.24938

### HEADACHE

#### Chronic daily headache is linked to traumatic stress in US soldiers

Around 20% of soldiers who sustain a deployment-related concussion go on to develop chronic daily headache (CDH), new research reveals. In the questionnaire-based study, 196 of 978 US soldiers who had experienced concussion while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan fulfilled the criteria for CDH. Interestingly, CDH showed a strong relationship with post-traumatic stress disorder, but not with the mechanism or number of concussions, suggesting that traumatic stress might contribute to the chronification of headache.

**Original article** Theeler, B. J. *et al.* Chronic daily headache in U.S. soldiers after concussion. *Headache* doi:10.1111/j.1526-4610.2012.02112.x