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IN BRIEF

PARKINSON DISEASE

Cognitive behavioural therapy improves impulse control in patients with Parkinson disease

A new study provides class IV evidence that addition of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to standard treatment reduces the severity of impulse control behaviours (ICB) in patients with Parkinson disease (PD). In the trial, which compared ICB outcomes in 27 patients given CBT with 17 individuals who received standard treatment alone, CBT improved symptom severity, neuropsychiatric disturbances, and anxiety and depression. The benefits of CBT did not, however, lead to alleviation of care-giver burden.

Original article Okai, D. *et al.* Trial of CBT for impulse control behaviors affecting Parkinson patients and their caregivers. *Neurology* doi:10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182840678

CEREBRAL ANEURYSMS

Carbon birth dating—a new method to investigate development of cerebral aneurysms?

Uncertainty exists over the time frame and biological development of cerebral aneurysms. In a new study, Etminan *et al.* used carbon birth dating to assess turnover of collagen in ruptured and unruptured aneurysms. In all samples, the collagen was on average <5 years old. As carbon levels correlated with patient age and aneurysm size, the authors suggest that this method could be useful for modelling of aneurysm development.

Original article Etminan, N. *et al.* Exploring the age of intracranial aneurysms using carbon birth dating. *Stroke* doi:10.1161/STROKEAHA.112.673806

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Study in MS reveals impairments in ‘theory of mind’

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is associated with a psychosocial burden, suggesting that social cognition could be impaired in patients with this disease. Using video-based testing, Pöttgen *et al.* compared ‘theory of mind’ (ToM)—the ability to recognise mental states and attribute them to oneself and others—in 45 patients with MS and 45 control individuals. The MS group showed significant impairments in ToM, even in early-stage disease. The greatest deficit was observed in identification of emotions, which could contribute to the psychosocial burden of MS.

Original article Pöttgen, J. *et al.* Impaired social cognition in multiple sclerosis. *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* doi:10.1136/jnnp-2012-304157

NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Optimizing the potential of MGMT as a prognostic biomarker in glioblastoma multiforme

In glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), methylation of the O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) gene is associated with good response to chemoradiation therapy. In a new study of 148 patients with newly diagnosed GBM, Lalezari *et al.* have shown that low expression of MGMT protein is associated with improved survival, and suggest assessment of both promoter methylation status and protein expression for optimal prognostication in GBM.

Original article Lalezari, S. *et al.* Combined analysis of O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase protein expression and promoter methylation provides optimized prognostication of glioblastoma outcome. *Neuro-Oncology* doi:10.1093/neuonc/nos308