

Nature Reviews Neurology **10**, 365 (2014); published online 24 June 2014;
 doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2014.109;
 doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2014.110;
 doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2014.111;
 doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2014.112

IN BRIEF

NEURO-ONCOLOGY

High blood perfusion in gliomas predicts poor prognosis

High-grade gliomas are associated with generally poor survival, but patients with the same WHO tumour grade can show considerable variation. Furtner *et al.* have found that patients whose astrocytomas show high blood perfusion, as measured by arterial spin labelling, demonstrated mean event-free survival of approximately 6 months, whereas the patients with low-perfusion astrocytomas demonstrated a mean of more than 25 months' survival.

Original article Furtner, J. *et al.* Prognostic value of blood flow measurements using arterial spin labeling in gliomas. *PLoS ONE* **9**, e99616 (2014)

SPINAL CORD INJURY

Levels of circulating microRNAs predict severity of spinal cord contusion in mice

Assessing spinal cord injury is difficult because some acute clinical impairments resolve with time. A team from Hiroshima University, Japan, have found three microRNAs that correlate with damage severity just 12–24 h after injury. The investigators analysed serum composition in mice with spinal cord injury induced by either 50 or 70 kdyn force. Expression of miR-9*, miR-219 and miR-384-5p was significantly higher in the injured mice than in controls, with the worst-injured mice showing the highest levels of these microRNAs.

Original article Hachisuka, S. *et al.* Circulating microRNAs as biomarkers for evaluating the severity of acute spinal cord injury. *Spinal Cord* doi:10.1038/sc.2014.86

STROKE

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors increase severity and mortality of haemorrhagic stroke

An analysis of >10,000 hospital admittance records has suggested that use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) exacerbates haemorrhagic stroke. Patients previously taking SSRIs were more likely to have severe bleeding during haemorrhagic stroke, and were more likely to die within 30 days of admittance compared with patients not on these medications. Prior SSRI use had no effect on the severity or mortality of ischaemic stroke.

Original article Mortensen, J. K. *et al.* Impact of prestroke selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor treatment on stroke severity and mortality. *Stroke* doi:10.1161/strokeaha.114.005302

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Reactivation of Epstein–Barr or herpes viruses not associated with MS relapse

Infection with the Epstein–Barr virus or human herpesvirus 6 is associated with the initial onset of multiple sclerosis (MS), but new evidence suggests these viruses are not involved in MS relapse. Simpson and colleagues prospectively collected blood samples twice a year from 198 patients with MS. Epstein–Barr antibodies were detected in approximately 82% of patients, but the researchers found no relationship between viral load, disability progression or relapse rate.

Original article Simpson, S. Jr *et al.* EBV & HHV6 reactivation is infrequent and not associated with MS clinical course. *Acta Neurol. Scand.* doi:10.1111/ane.12268