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IN BRIEF

PARKINSON DISEASE

Exercise could improve cognition in Parkinson disease

New research suggests that exercise interventions could improve memory and attention in nondemented patients with mild to moderate Parkinson disease (PD), thereby providing a strategy to delay cognitive decline in PD. After 2 years, working memory, reaction times and selective attention had improved in 20 patients who completed a progressive resistance exercise regime. Working memory and reaction times also improved in 18 patients completing a modified Fitness Counts programme, but there was no significant change in attention.

Original article David, F. J. *et al.* Exercise improves cognition in Parkinson's disease: the PRET-PD randomized, clinical trial. *Mov. Disord.* doi:10.1002/mds.26291

NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Brain tumour survivors prone to late new morbidity

Adolescents and young adults surviving a brain tumour are at high risk of late morbidities, a new study shows. Using a database of all patients in Finland who were diagnosed with brain tumours between the ages of 16–25 years, Gunn *et al.* discovered that, ≥ 5 years after diagnosis, brain tumour survivors had a ninefold higher risk of CNS diseases than did their siblings. Loss of vision or hearing, psychiatric disorders, and endocrine or kidney diseases were also more common in the tumour survivors.

Original article Gunn, M. E. *et al.* Late new morbidity in survivors of adolescent and young-adulthood brain tumors in Finland: a registry-based study. *Neuro Oncol.* doi:10.1093/neuonc/nov115

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIES

Increased thrombocytosis in POEMS syndrome

POEMS syndrome (polyneuropathy, organomegaly, endocrinopathy, monoclonal plasma cell disorder, and skin changes) can easily be confused with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) because of their similar clinical presentation. A new study reports that platelet counts indicated thrombocytosis—and thereby increased risk of thrombotic events—in 53.7% of 136 patients with POEMS, but only in 1.5% of 67 patients with CIDP. Thus, thrombocytosis might aid differential diagnosis.

Original article Naddaf, E. *et al.* Thrombocytosis distinguishes POEMS syndrome from CIDP. *Muscle Nerve* doi:10.1002/mus.24768

NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE

α -Synuclein deposits in multiple system atrophy detected by skin biopsy

Kathrin Doppler and colleagues found that phospho- α -synuclein (p- α -Syn) was present in the dermal nerves of 67% of patients with multiple system atrophy (MSA; $n=12$) and patients with Parkinson disease (PD; $n=30$). Moreover, the distribution of p- α -Syn differed between patients with MSA and patients with PD, and was not found in 15 patients with tauopathies or in 39 healthy controls. The results indicate skin biopsy as a potential tool for studying living patients with MSA.

Original article Doppler, K. *et al.* Distinctive distribution of phospho-alpha-synuclein in dermal nerves in multiple system atrophy. *Mov. Disord.* doi:10.1002/mds.26293