Nature Reviews Neurology **11**, 310 (2015); published online 26 May 2015;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.92;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.93;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.94;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.95

IN BRIEF

STROKE

Desmoteplase is not an effective late treatment for stroke

A randomized controlled trial has revealed that the fibrin-dependent plasminogen activator desmoteplase does not improve functional outcome when given several hours after ischaemic stroke. 492 patients, who were hospitalized too late after symptom onset (>3 h) to benefit from standard treatment, were given either desmoteplase or placebo. No differences were seen between the groups in terms of adverse events, mortality, or modified Rankin Scale or NIH Stroke Scale scores.

Original article Albers, G. W. *et al.* Safety and efficacy of desmoteplase given 3–9 h after ischaemic stroke in patients with occlusion or high-grade stenosis in major cerebral arteries (DIAS-3): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial. *Lancet Neurol.* **14**, 575–584 (2015)

EPILEPSY

Children with status epilepticus can face considerable delays before receiving effective antiseizure treatment

Paediatric patients with status epilepticus might not receive antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in a timely fashion, according to an investigation by the Pediatric Status Epilepticus Research Group. The study found that AEDs were first administered a median of 30 min after seizure onset, and the duration of the status epilepticus episode correlated with delay in delivery of the first three AED doses. Further work is needed to test whether patients outside the USA have similar experiences.

Original article Sánchez-Fernández, I. *et al.* Time from convulsive status epilepticus onset to anticonvulsant administration in children. *Neurology* doi: 10.1212/WNL.0000000000001673

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Inherited truncating mutations and copy number variants are common in children with autism spectrum disorders

New evidence implicates inherited mutations as a major component in the risk of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Krumm and colleagues reanalysed whole-exome sequences from children with ASD and their parents, and discovered multiple mutations with biased inheritance from mothers to sons. These mutations were either single nucleotide variants that led to protein truncations, or copy number variants in target genes of CHD8, a protein previously associated with ASD. The study also reveals a new class of genes that had not previously been linked to ASD.

Original article Krumm, N. *et al.* Excess of rare, inherited truncating mutations in autism. *Nat. Genet.* doi:10.1038/ng.3303

PARKINSON DISEASE

Little evidence for efficacy of rasagiline for depression in patients with Parkinson disease

In a placebo-controlled trial, rasagiline failed to improve Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) scores in patients with Parkinson disease (PD) and symptoms of depression. After 12 weeks, comparable reductions in BDI scores were seen in patients receiving 1 mg daily rasagiline or placebo. *Post hoc* analyses revealed that patients receiving rasagiline reported greater improvements in cognition than did patients receiving placebo, but performance on cognitive tests did not differ.

Original article Barone, G. *et al.* A randomized clinical trial to evaluate the effects of rasagiline on depressive symptoms in non-demented Parkinson's disease patients. *Eur. J. Neurol.* doi:10.1111/ene.12724