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Editors’ commentary

249 Highlights of the issue
P E M Smith, G N Fuller

Editorial

250 Mechanical thrombectomy services: can the UK meet the challenge?
A Clifton

Reviews

252 Revolution in acute ischaemic stroke care: a practical guide to mechanical thrombectomy
M R B Evans, P White, P Cowley, D J Werring

Communication changes in Parkinson’s disease
N Miller

266 Genetic testing and reproductive choice in neurological disorders
O Lee, M Porteous

Hepatitis E virus and neurological disorders
B N Mclean, J Gulliver, H R Dalton

A difficult case

289 Hypoactive–hypoalert behaviour and thalamic hypometabolism due to intracranial hypotension
S Kearney, P Flynn, S Hughes, W Spence, M O McCarron

293 Chorioretinitis: a potential clue to the early diagnosis of subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
V Jeevagan, A Dissanayake

297 Acute segmental poliomyelitis-like flaccid paralysis in an adult in the UK, associated with enterovirus D68
S R L Stacpoole, A Molyneux, D Bäumer

Image of the moment

302 Bilateral optic disc drusen mimicking papilloedema
E I Agorogiannis, J M Durnian

304 Hypodense artery sign in cerebral fat embolism
J D Avila

306 Postictal thoracocervicofacial purpura
P V S de Souza, T Bortholin, W B V de Rezende Pinto, A J Santos

307 Calcified embolus mimics patent middle cerebral artery on CT angiogram
V Yogendrakumar, S Patro, D Dowlatshahi, G Stotts, D Iancu

310 Unilateral papilloedema
T Chang, A T Alibhoy

Neurological dilemma

312 Venous hypertensive encephalopathy secondary to venous sinus thrombosis and dural arteriovenous fistula
P Anand, E Orru, I Izbudak, J Zhang, A Kheradm

Neurological rarities

314 PCDH19-related epilepsy: a rare but recognisable clinical syndrome in females
S Lyons, M Marnane, E Reavey, N Williams, D Costello

318 Recurrent painful ophthalmoplegic neuropathy
C Huang, M Amasanti, B Lovell, T Young

Neurological reflections

321 Finding the grave of Sir William Richard Gowers
C J Boes, N Toodayan, A Lees

Neuromythology

323 Weber’s and Rinne’s tests: bad vibrations?
I J McGurgan, D J Nicholl

Test yourself

327 A ‘limb-girdle muscular dystrophy’ responsive to asthma therapy
E Mulroy, R Ghaoui, D Hutchinson, M Rodrigues, M Lek, D G MacArthur, S T Cooper, N F Clarke, R Roxburgh

Neurological web

332 Antiepileptic drug withdrawal risk calculator
F Brigo

ABN News

334 ABN News
D Nicholl, J Lawrence

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Light micrograph of human muscle showing neurogenic muscular atrophy. Wasting of skeletal muscle may be caused by primary muscle disease or (as here) secondary to motor nerve damage. Only those muscle fibres supplied by damaged motor neurones (nerves) become small & atrophic (wasted), appearing arranged in distinct groups. In this image, large normal muscle fibres appear at left, with small, atrophic fibres at right. This pattern contrasts to that of muscular dystrophy, where atrophic muscle fibres are scattered randomly amongst the larger, normal fibres.

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335 When breath becomes air
G K Mbizo, D J Leighton

Carphology

336 Carphology
A F Ben

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