Research

Original Investigation
366 Neurocognitive Growth Charting in Psychosis Spectrum Youths
RC Gur and Coauthors

375 Multisystem Component Phenotypes of Bipolar Disorder for Genetic Investigations of Extended Pedigrees
SC Fears and Coauthors

388 A Multicenter Tractography Study of Deep White Matter Tracts in Bipolar I Disorder: Psychotic Features and Interhemispheric Disconnectivity
S Sarrazin and Coauthors

397 Preventive Effects of Ramelteon on Delirium: A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial
K Hatta and Coauthors; for the DELIRIA-J Group

404 Use of Hospital-Based Services Among Young Adults With Behavioral Health Diagnoses Before and After Health Insurance Expansions
E Meara and Coauthors

412 Synergistic Effects of Ischemia and β-Amyloid Burden on Cognitive Decline in Patients With Subcortical Vascular Mild Cognitive Impairment
MJ Lee and Coauthors

423 Assessment of Plasma C-Reactive Protein as a Biomarker of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Risk
SA Eraly and Coauthors; for the Marine Resiliency Study Team

432 Paternal Age at Childbearing and Offspring Psychiatric and Academic Morbidity
BM D'Onofrio and Coauthors

KS Kendler and Coauthors

446 Relationship Between Stressfulness of Claiming for Injury Compensation and Long-term Recovery: A Prospective Cohort Study
GM Grant and Coauthors

Opinion

Viewpoint
357 Independent Research by Early Investigators: An Underutilized Option
D Blazer

359 Access to Treatment for Opioid Dependence in Rural America: Challenges and Future Directions
SC Sigmon

Editorial
361 Neurocognitive Growth Charts and Psychosis: Is the Relationship Predictive?
TD Cannon

362 Toward Understanding the Functional Relevance of White Matter Deficits in Bipolar Disorder
KR Cullen and KO Lim

364 Melatonin Prophylaxis in Delirium: Panacea or Paradigm Shift?
SE de Rooij and Coauthors

Clinical Review & Education

Neuroscience and Psychiatry
454 Epigenetic Mechanisms of Depression
EJ Nestler

Continuing Medical Education
460 Online CME Quiz Questions

HUMANITIES
Art and Images in Psychiatry
350 The Last Supper (Dove): Andy Warhol
JC Harris

Issue Highlights and Continued Contents on page 345
Research

Neurocognitive Growth and Psychosis Spectrum 366
Gur and colleagues used a computerized 1-hour battery, administered to a prospective cohort of more than 9000 genotyped and psychiatrically phenotyped youths aged 8 to 21 years, to demonstrate the feasibility of creating "growth charts" of neurocognition that can identify developmental delay in children as young as 8 years with psychosis spectrum features. The delay is less severe in females than in males and more severe in children who endorse significant psychotic symptoms than in those with mild symptoms.

Editorial 361

Multisystem Component Phenotypes of Bipolar Disorder 375
Fears and colleagues investigated quantitative measures of temperament, neurocognition, and brain structure acquired from multigenerational families with heavy genetic loading for bipolar disorder in genetically isolated populations of Latin America (N=738). Neuroimaging phenotypes, particularly prefrontal and temporal cortical thickness, represented the most promising candidate traits for genetic mapping.

Author Audio Interview jamapsychiatry.com

Deep White Matter Tracts in Bipolar I Disorder 388
Sarrazin and colleagues assessed the integrity of brain white matter using tractography in a multicenter sample of patients with bipolar I disorder and healthy subjects. Patients with bipolar disorder had a lower integrity of interhemispheric, limbic, and arcuate tracts when compared with controls. Abnormalities of the corpus callosum were more pronounced in patients with a history of psychotic symptoms, suggesting a role for interhemispheric dysconnectivity in psychotic features in bipolar disorder.

Editorial 362

Preventive Effects of Ramelteon on Delirium 397
Hatta and colleagues examined whether ramelteon, a melatonin receptor agonist, is effective for the prevention of delirium in a multicenter, rater-blinded, randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial. Ramelteon was associated with lower risk of delirium, even after controlling for risk factors. Ramelteon administered nightly to elderly patients admitted for acute care may provide protection against delirium.

Editorial 364

Opinion

Viewpoint 357
Independent Research by Early Investigators: An Underutilized Option
D Blazer

Access to Treatment for Opioid Dependence in Rural America: Challenges and Future Directions
SC Sigmon

Editorial 361
Neurocognitive Growth Charts and Psychosis: Is the Relationship Predictive?
TD Cannon

Toward Understanding the Functional Relevance of White Matter Deficits in Bipolar Disorder
KR Cullen and KO Lim

Melatonin Prophylaxis in Delirium: Panacea or Paradigm Shift?
SE de Rooij and Coauthors

Clinical Review & Education

Neuroscience and Psychiatry

Art and Images in Psychiatry

Hospital Use and Young Adults
Meara and colleagues examined hospital discharges among 19- to 25-year-olds with behavioral health diagnoses following Massachusetts’ 2006 health reform. Although insurance coverage expanded most for young adults following reform, use of expensive hospital-based care did not rise. Encounters for young adults with behavioral health diagnoses, driven by patients with substance use disorders, grew more slowly in Massachusetts than other states following reform.

Ischemia and β-Amyloid Burden in Cognitive Impairment
Lee and colleagues assessed the association of amyloid burden and cognitive decline in patients with subcortical vascular mild cognitive impairment (MCI) (n = 67) and patients with amnestic MCI (n = 45). In the patients with subcortical vascular MCI, amyloid burden was negatively correlated with multiple cognitive domains but only with memory domain in the patients with amnestic MCI. A synergistic effect of ischemia and amyloid burden was found in the visuospatial domain, but not in other cognitive domains.

C-Reactive Protein in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Risk
Early colleagues have found in a cohort of combat zone–deployed soldiers that predeployment C-reactive protein (a marker of peripheral inflammation) is associated with post-deployment posttraumatic stress disorder symptom emergence. These findings suggest that peripheral inflammation may increase the vulnerability to developing posttraumatic stress disorder and thus have potential implications for the prevention of this disorder.

Paternal Age and Offspring Morbidity
D’Onofrio and colleagues examined the association between paternal age at childbearing and psychiatric and academic problems while controlling for statistical covariates and comparing differentially exposed siblings, cousins, and first-born cousins in a large population-based Swedish sample. The analyses found that advancing paternal age was associated with increased risk for every index of psychiatric and academic morbidity, with the magnitude of the risks being as large or larger than previous estimates.

Peer Deviance and Drug Abuse
In 1,401,698 Swedish individuals, Kendler and colleagues showed that an objective definition of peer deviance (PD) strongly predicted future drug abuse. The predictive power of PD was only slightly attenuated by measures of community deprivation, collective efficacy, or family socioeconomic status. Individuals at high genetic risk and those with parental divorce were both more sensitive to the pathogenic effects of high PD environments.

Stressfulness of Claiming for Injury Compensation
Many studies have linked receipt of injury compensation benefits to poor long-term recovery, but the nature of this relationship is not well understood. In a prospective cohort study of 332 claimants to transport accident programs and workers’ compensation programs in Australia, Grant and colleagues found that those who experienced high levels of claim-related stress had relatively poor outcomes (high levels of disability, anxiety, and depression; lower quality of life) 6 years after injury.

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