



## Rare Diseases Day and Brain Awareness Week: the active participation of *Neurological Sciences*

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At the end of February and the beginning of March, two main important manifestations occur:

- a) *The Rare Disease Day*, taking place on the last day of February each year. The main objective of the Rare Disease Day is to raise awareness among the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives. The campaign targets primarily the general public and also seeks to raise awareness among policy-makers, public authorities, industry representatives, researchers, health professionals, and anyone who has a genuine interest in rare diseases. Rare neurological diseases represent more than 50% of the global rare diseases, and neurologists have an important role in diagnosis and treatment.
- b) *The Brain Awareness Week (BAW)*, March 11–17, 2019, is a yearly global campaign to increase public awareness

of the progress and benefits of brain research. Activities include open days at neuroscience labs, exhibitions about the brain, lectures on brain-related topics, social media campaigns, displays at libraries and community centers, classroom workshops, and more.

In order to celebrate these two dates, *Neurological Sciences* highlights some of the best articles published in between 2017 and 2019 either related to rare neurological diseases or to general clinical neurology, focusing to brain pathogenesis and brain protection. A selection of articles reported in Table 1 and all articles in Table 2 will be set as free access for 1-month time and made publicly available to the neurological scientific community. The whole selection with direct links to article full texts in SpringerLink will be available at <https://www.springer.com/10072>.

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**Table 1** A selection of the best articles published in Neurological Sciences in 2017–2019 related to *Rare Neurological Diseases*

Article title	Authors (year)
The diagnosis of dementias: a practical tool not to miss rare causes	C. Ferrari, B. Nacmias, S. Sorbi (2018) [1]
A case of rapidly progressive dementia: Whipple disease of CNS	M.E. Pessa, A. Baldi, G.L. Gigli, et al. (2018) [2]
What is the role of diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in detecting subclinical pyramidal tract dysfunction in Behçet's and neuro-Behçet's cases?	Seyma Ciftci Aykac, Figen Gökçay, Cem Calli (2019) [3]
Effects of in vivo and in vitro administration of neuro-Behçet's disease IgG	E. Erdağ, C. Şahin, C.İ. Küçükali et al. (2018) [4]
GEN-O-MA project: an Italian network studying clinical course and pathogenic pathways of moyamoya disease—study protocol and preliminary results	A. Bersano, G. Bedini, S. Nava, et al. (2019) [5]
Moyamoya masquerading as relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis	S. Feldman, M. Esch, S. Saidha (2018) [6]
Moyamoya complicated by thrombotic cerebrovascular accident in a Caucasian woman with collagenous colitis	M. Valluri, H. Akhondi, M. Hyndman (2018) [7]
A “wavering puff of smoke”: a rare case of moyamoya disease	A. Scalise, M. Elena Laino, B. Petralia, et al. (2017) [8]
Reversible inflammatory neuropathy superimposed on Charcot-Marie-Tooth type 1A disease	J. Gazulla, C. Almarcegui, J. Berciano (2018) [9]
Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease: genetic subtypes in the Sardinian population	L. Lorefice, M.R. Murru, G. Coghe, et al. (2017) [10]
Long-term therapy with miglustat and cognitive decline in the adult form of Niemann-Pick disease type C: a case report	S. Tozza, R. Dubbioso, R. Iodice, et al. (2018) [11]
Dopamine transport system imaging is pathologic in Niemann-Pick type C—case report	S. Tomic (2018) [12]
Wilson's disease: a reversible cause of ataxia	P-W. Ko, K. Kang, H-W. Lee, et al. (2018) [13]
Recurrent stroke-like episodes of Wilson disease with a novel Val176fs mutation	L. Pan, D. Ding, H. Leng, et al. (2018) [14]
A new neurobehavioral phenotype of familial Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease: impaired theory of mind	A.R. Giovagnoli, G. Tallarita, A. Parente, et al. (2018) [15]
Sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease presenting with isolated progressive non-fluent aphasia in a young woman	A. Terrin, A. Barp, G. Zanusso, et al. (2017) [16]
Aggressive immunosuppression in Susac's syndrome: 10 years of follow-up	E. Capiluppi, L. Romano, S. V. Luccarelli, et al. (2018) [17]
Morvan's syndrome—is a pathogen behind the curtain?	R. Singh, P. Das, U. Kaur, et al. (2018) [18]
Hirayama disease: analysis of cases in Russia	A. Rosliakova, I. Zakroyshchikova, I. Bakulin, et al. (2019) [19]
Could Buerger's disease cause nonarteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy?: a rare case report	A. Korkmaz, O. Karti, D. Top Karti, et al. (2017) [20]
Wernicke encephalopathy and systemic sclerosis: rare association of rare conditions	G. Sciacca, S. Lo Fermo, G. Aprile, et al. (2017) [21]
Clinical variability of children with anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis in southern Brazil: a cases series and review of the literature	D. Almeida do Valle, J.S.P. Galeazzi, et al. (2019) [22]
BK-virus progressive multifocal leukoencephalitis in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus	M. Melis, M. Badiali, T. Peltz, et al. (2018) [23]
Red Flags for early referral of people with symptoms suggestive of narcolepsy: a report from a national multidisciplinary panel	L. Vignatelli, E. Antelmi, I. Ceretelli, et al. (2018) [24]
Association between restless legs syndrome and hypertension: a meta-analysis of nine population-based studies	Y. Shen, H. Liu, T. Dai, et al. (2018) [25]
Rate of augmentation and risk factors with long-term follow-up in Japanese patients with restless legs syndrome	K. Tanioka, M. Okura, M. Inoue, et al. (2018) [26]
The relationship with restless legs syndrome, fibromyalgia, and depressive symptoms in migraine patients	Z. Akdag Uzun, S. Kurt, H. Karaer Unaldi (2018) [27]
Prevalence of restless legs syndrome in individuals with migraine: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies	X. Yang, B. Liu, B. Yang, et al. (2018) [28]
Rate of augmentation and risk factors with long-term follow-up in Japanese patients with restless legs syndrome	K. Tanioka, M. Okura, M. Inoue, et al. (2018) [29]
Italian recommendations for diagnosis and management of congenital myasthenic syndromes	L. Maggi, P. Bernasconi, A. D'Amico, et al. (2018) [30]
Clinical and CN-SFEMG evaluation of neostigmine test in myasthenia gravis	G. Sciacca, Ester Reggio, Giovanni Mostile, et al. (2018) [31]
Whole-exome sequencing reveals a rare interferon gamma receptor 1 mutation associated with myasthenia gravis	G. Qi, P. Liu, S. Gu, et al. (2018) [32]
Imaging of the thymus in myotonic dystrophy type 1	A. Mignarri, F. Gentili, F. Masia, et al. (2018) [33]
A rare case of paroxysmal diplopia: ocular neuromyotonia	M.E. Pessa, L. Verriello, G. Pauletto et al. (2018) [34]
Late-onset and fast progressive neuropathy and cardiomyopathy in Val32Ala transthyretin gene mutation	D. Cazzato, E. Dalla Bella, P. Saveri, et al. (2019) [35]

**Table 1** (continued)

Article title	Authors (year)
Expert recommendations for diagnosing cervical, oromandibular, and limb dystonia	G. Defazio, A. Albanese, R. Pellicciari, et al. (2019) [36]
Clinical presentation and natural history of infantile-onset ascending spastic paralysis from three families with an ALS2 founder variant	M. Helal, N. Mazaheri, B. Shalbafan, et al. (2018) [37]
Langerhans cell histiocytosis presenting as a rapidly evolving frontotemporal syndrome	D. Garg, R. Pedapati, T. Nakra, et al. (2019) [38]
A fatal back pain: report of two cases of diffuse large B cell/Burkitt-like nervous system lymphoma	I. Markovic, J. Saric Sucic, S. Juric, et al. (2018) [39]
The clinical and imaging features of gray matter heterotopia: a clinical analysis on 15 patients	H.K. Raza, H. Chen, T. Chansysouphanthong, et al. (2018) [40]
MR imaging of neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions of the brain and spine in neurofibromatosis type I	A.A.K.A. Razek (2018) [41]
Clinical and genetic characterization of an Italian family with slow-channel syndrome	C. Angelini, L. Lispi, C. Salvoro, et al. (2018) [42]
Ictal kissing: occurrence and etiology	A.A. Asadi-Pooya, E.W. Fletman (2017) [43]

**Table 2** The most read and cited articles selection for the *Brain Awareness Week 2019* (11–17 March). The current year topic is “Protect your brain.” These articles will be set as temporary free access

Article title	Authors (year)
Unethical human research in the field of neuroscience: a historical review	H. Algahtani, M. Bajunaid, B. Shirah (2018) [44]
Benton visual form discrimination test in healthy children: normative data and qualitative analysis	D. Smimi, M. Oliveri, P. Turriziani, et al. (2018) [45]
Autism, epilepsy, and synaptopathies: a not rare association	R. Keller, R. Basta, L. Salerno, et al. (2017) [46]
The effect of Wi-Fi electromagnetic waves in unimodal and multimodal object recognition tasks in male rats	A. Hassanshahi, S.A. Shafeie, I. Fatemi, et al. (2017) [47]
Advanced magnetic resonance imaging of neurodegenerative diseases	F. Agosta, S. Galantucci, M. Filippi (2017) [48]
Multifocal cognitive dysfunction in high-dose benzodiazepine users: a cross-sectional study	A. Federico, S. Tamburin, A. Maier, et al. (2017) [49]
Music intervention on cognitive dysfunction in healthy older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis	Bing Xu, Yi Sui, Chunyan Zhu, et al. (2017) [50]
Cognitive training in Alzheimer’s disease: a controlled randomized study	A.R. Giovagnoli, V. Manfredi, A. Parente, et al. (2017) [51]
Microbial treatment: the potential application for Parkinson’s disease	X. Fang (2019) [52]
alpha-Synuclein in the colon and premotor markers of Parkinson disease in neurologically normal subjects	Kim Joong-Seok, Park In-Seok, Park, Hyung-Eun, et al. (2017) [53]
Estimated prevalence of multiple sclerosis in Italy in 2015	M.A. Battaglia, D. Bezzini (2017) [54]
Therapeutic potential of curcumin for multiple sclerosis	Q. Munibah, A. A-S. Ebtesam, W. Fazli, et al. (2018) [55]
The role of deep breathing on stress	V. Perciavalle, M. Blandini, P. Fecarotta, et al. (2017) [56]
Pathogenic mechanisms following ischemic stroke	S.E. Khoshnam, W. Winlow, M. Farzaneh, et al. [57]
Effects of robot-assisted upper limb rehabilitation in stroke patients: a systematic review with meta-analysis	R. Bertani, C. Melegari, M.C. De Cola, et al. (2017) [58]

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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