

Annals of Internal Medicine

Contents

Volume 131 Number 3 AIMEAS 131(3)165-236(1999) US ISSN 0003-4819

ARTICLES

Social Disengagement and Incident Cognitive Decline in Community-Dwelling Elderly Persons 165

S.S. Bassuk, T.A. Glass, and L.F. Berkman

Social engagement, defined as the maintenance of many social connections and a high level of participation in social activities, has been thought to prevent cognitive decline in elderly persons. In a large group of noninstitutionalized elderly patients, social disengagement was found to be a risk factor for cognitive impairment.

Interferon Therapy Reduces the Risk for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: National Surveillance Program of Cirrhotic and Noncirrhotic Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C in Japan 174

H. Yoshida, Y. Shiratori, M. Moriyama, Y. Arakawa, T. Ide, M. Sata, O. Inoue, M. Yano, M. Tanaka, S. Fujiyama, S. Nishiguchi, T. Kuroki, F. Imazeki, O. Yokosuka, S. Kinoyama, G. Yamada, and M. Omata, for the IHIT Study Group

Among patients with chronic hepatitis C, interferon therapy significantly reduced the risk for hepatocellular carcinoma, especially in persons who showed a virologic or biochemical response.

Effects of Metformin in Patients with Poorly Controlled, Insulin-Treated Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial 182

L. Avilés-Santa, J. Sinding, and P. Raskin

The addition of metformin to insulin therapy resulted in hemoglobin A_{1c} concentrations that were lower than those achieved by insulin therapy alone. This improvement in glycemic control occurred with the use of less insulin and without substantial weight gain.

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

Risk for Colorectal Cancer after Gynecologic Cancer 189

D.S. Weinberg, C.J. Newschaffer, and A. Topham

Previous endometrial or ovarian cancer, particularly when diagnosed at an early age, increases subsequent risk for colorectal cancer. Greater emphasis on colorectal cancer screening in these populations may be necessary.

The Will To Live among HIV-Infected Patients 194

J. Tsevat, S.N. Sherman, J.A. McElwee, K.L. Mandell, L.A. Simbartl, F.A. Sonnenberg, and F.J. Fowler Jr.

Many patients with HIV have a strong will to live, and many feel that life with HIV is better than it was before they became infected.

UPDATE

Update in General Internal Medicine 199

D. Altkorn, K. Roach, S. Stern, and W. Levinson

The 1999–2000 Update Series begins with a discussion of important studies relevant to general internal medicine. Among the subject areas covered are cancer, stroke, venous thromboembolism, and osteoporosis.

REVIEW

Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia: Biology and Therapy 207

S. Faderl, M. Talpaz, Z. Estrov, and H.M. Kantarjian

Chronic myelogenous leukemia is one of the best-studied malignant conditions in humans. Progress in the understanding of molecular pathways has led to increasingly targeted and effective treatments, including allogeneic stem-cell transplantation and interferon- α .

EDITORIAL

Can Social Engagement Prevent Cognitive Decline in Old Age? 220

M.N. Haan

In this issue, Bassuk and colleagues report modest associations between social ties and cognitive decline in elderly persons. Decline in elderly persons is complex and multifactorial; at best, medical treatment of complicated cases merely ameliorates the problems. Bassuk and colleagues' findings suggest that in such cases, the simple act of caring may be enough to slow the long slide into dementia.

(Continued on page I-2)

Postmaster: Send changes of address to Customer Service, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572.

Annals of Internal Medicine is published twice monthly and copyrighted © 1999 by the American College of Physicians–American Society of Internal Medicine, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572, USA. Basic USA subscription price is \$119.00 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post International Publications Mail Sales Agreement #1412817. (ACP/Brokers, 1031 Helena Street, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 5N8, Canada.) GST ID#128512159.

ON BEING A DOCTOR		Alternative Views on Alternative Medicine	229
Doctors' Daughter	222	<i>C.M. Bagley Jr.; A.F. Shaughnessy; A. Ganguly; E. Ernst; T.J. Kapchuk and D.M. Eisenberg</i>	
<i>J.E. McMurray</i>			
O.U. School of Medicine, class of 1945. My mother is one of only three women in the sepia-toned photograph. "How come you never worked as a doctor, Mama?" I asked frequently.			
AD LIBITUM		MEDICAL WRITINGS	
The Dying Patient	224	Brief Encounters: Speaking with Patients	231
<i>P.W. Smith</i>		<i>J.A. Balint</i>	
ON BEING A PATIENT		In the past 12 years, four books have addressed the issues of the changing setting and nature of the patient-physician relationship. They have also tackled the even more difficult problem of defining the relationship and identifying its essential components. These books show the way to start on the road of educating young physicians to become caring physicians, but they do not have the final answers.	
The Medical Student as Patient	225		
<i>A.S. Clay</i>			
It is the first day of my surgery clerkship. After a frantic race to a patient in crisis, my shortness of breath blossoms into an exercise-induced asthma attack. Despite my assertions that I am fine, I soon find myself admitted to the hospital.		<hr/> Book Notes	235
LETTERS			
Prediction Rule for Renal Artery Stenosis	227	<hr/> Subscription Information	I-3
<i>M. Bloch, S. Mann, and T. Pickering; E.J. Fine and M.D. Blaufox; V. Rajput and F. Nammour; S.J.C.M.M. Neggers and J. van der Meulen; P. Krijnen, E.W. Steyerberg, and B.C. van Jaarsveld</i>		Information for Authors	I-4
		Authors' Form	I-7
