

CONTENTS *Annals of Internal Medicine*

15 August 2000 133 4 245-320

ARTICLES

Duration of Symptoms and Plasma Cytokine Levels in Patients with the Common Cold Treated with Zinc Acetate. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

A.S. Prasad, J.T. Fitzgerald, B. Bao, F.W.J. Beck, and P.H. Chandrasekar

Use of zinc lozenges was associated with reduced duration and severity of cold symptoms, especially cough. Improvement in clinical symptoms with zinc treatment may be related to a decrease in proinflammatory cytokine levels; in this study, however, the observed changes in cytokine levels did not significantly differ between zinc and placebo groups.

Effect of a Preoperative Intervention on Preoperative and Postoperative Outcomes in Low-Risk Patients Awaiting Elective Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery. A Randomized, Controlled Trial

H.M. Arthur, C. Daniels, R. McKelvie, J. Hirsh, and B. Rush

The waiting period for elective procedures, such as coronary artery bypass grafting, may be used to enhance in-hospital and early-phase recovery, improving patients' functional abilities and quality of life while reducing their hospital stay.

Efficacy and Safety of Troglitazone in the Treatment of Lipodystrophy Syndromes

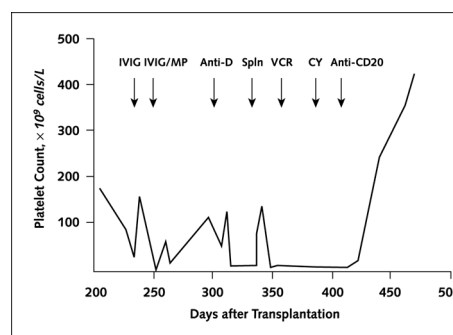
E. Arioglu, J. Duncan-Morin, N. Sebring, K.I. Rother, N. Gottlieb, J. Lieberman, D. Herion, D.E. Kleiner, J. Reynolds, A. Premkumar, A.E. Sumner, J. Hoofnagle, M.L. Reitman, and S.I. Taylor

Troglitazone therapy improved metabolic control and increased body fat in patients with lipoatrophic diabetes. The substantial benefits of troglitazone must be balanced against the risk for hepatotoxicity, which can occur relatively late in the treatment course.

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

Anti-CD20 Chimeric Monoclonal Antibody Treatment of Refractory Immune-Mediated Thrombocytopenia in a Patient with Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease

V. Ratanatharathorn, E. Carson, C. Reynolds, L.J. Ayash, J. Levine, G. Yanik, S.M. Silver, J.L.M. Ferrara, and J.P. Uberti



Course of patient with chronic graft-versus-host disease whose immune-mediated thrombocytopenia responded to anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody.

The efficacy of rituximab for immune-mediated thrombocytopenia in the patient described here suggests that this drug may have activity in other autoimmune diseases or chronic graft-versus-host disease.

Effect of Antiretroviral Therapy on HIV Shedding in Semen

P.F. Barroso, M. Schechter, P. Gupta, M.F. Melo, M. Vieira, F.C. Murta, Y. Souza, and L.H. Harrison

Antiretroviral therapy reduces shedding of HIV in semen; in turn, this reduction probably decreases HIV transmissibility. However, a substantial proportion of patients may still be infectious and may harbor drug-resistant strains of the virus.

UPDATE

Update in Infectious Diseases

J.G. Bartlett

Topics covered in this Update include antimicrobial resistance, community-acquired pneumonia, and HIV infection.

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IN THE BALANCE

The Department of Internal Medicine: Hub of the Academic Health Center Response to the Aging Imperative 293

W.R. Hazzard

Given the progressive aging of the U.S. population, it may seem natural for geriatrics to become a separate specialty with its own academic department. The author recommends an alternative—a center on aging or pan-institutional program that is firmly anchored in the department of internal medicine.

In Defense of a Department of Geriatrics 297

C.K. Cassel

The author argues the case for departments of geriatric medicine as institutional structures that can advance research, improve teaching, and enhance patient care.

EDITORIALS

Lessons Learned from Attempts To Establish the Blind in Placebo-Controlled Trials of Zinc for the Common Cold 302

N.A. Desbiens

Prasad and colleagues' study in this issue points to an important, often overlooked issue in randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials: testing the participants' assessment of whether they are receiving placebo or active drug.

Lipoatrophy, Lipodystrophy, and Insulin Resistance 304

O.P. Ganda

In this issue, Arioglu and colleagues report that troglitazone led to better metabolic control and increased body fat in patients with lipoatrophic diabetes. What are the mechanisms of the efficacy of troglitazone in these patients?

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