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The Progression of Fenfluramine-Associated Valvular Heart Disease Assessed by Echocardiography 261

S.T. Mast, J.G. Jollis, T. Ryan, K.J. Anstrom, and J.L. Cray
In 50 patients who had developed at least mild mitral regurgitation or aortic regurgitation after exposure to fenfluramines, serial echocardiography showed that valvular regurgitation improved or remained stable in most patients after therapy was discontinued. Worsening of valvular regurgitation was uncommon.

Natural History of Valvular Regurgitation 1 Year after Discontinuation of Dexfenfluramine Therapy. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial 267

N.J. Weissman, J.A. Panza, J.F. Tighe Jr., and J.T. Gwynne
The findings of this study suggest that after dexfenfluramine therapy is taken for 2 to 3 months and then discontinued, development or progression of any valvular regurgitation over the following year is unlikely. Echocardiographic evidence indicates that aortic regurgitation regresses in some previously treated patients.

Assessment of Decision Support for Blood Test Ordering in Primary Care. A Randomized Trial 274

M.A.M. van Wijk, J. van der Lei, M. Mosseveld, A.M. Bohnen, and J.H. van Bommel
Decision support based on guidelines was more effective in changing blood test-ordering behavior than was decision support based on initially displaying a limited number of tests. Guideline-driven decision support systems can reduce the number of laboratory tests ordered by primary care practitioners.

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Use of Prescription Weight Loss Pills among U.S. Adults in 1996–1998 282

L.K. Khan, M.K. Serdula, B.A. Bowman, and D.F. Williamson
According to the results of a telephone survey, nearly 5 million U.S. adults used prescription weight loss pills in 1996–1998. However, one quarter of users were not overweight, suggesting that weight loss pills may be inappropriately used, especially among women, white persons, and Hispanic persons.

Impact of Coronary Heart Disease on World Leaders 287

A.M. Girardi, L.R. Pyenson, J. Morris, and F.X. Brickfield
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A. Montanaro and S.A. Tilles
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J.P. Vandenbroucke
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M. St John Sutton

The studies by Weissman and Mast and their colleagues in this issue clarify two important issues concerning anorexogen-induced valvulopathy: that progressive valvulopathy is uncommon and that valvular regurgitation may spontaneously resolve in some patients after cessation of anorexogen therapy.

Coronary Events in World Leaders 338

J.W. Hurst

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