

CONTENTS **Annals of Internal Medicine**

18 September 2001 135 6 393-476

ARTICLES

Clinical Predictors of Prolonged Delay in Return of the International Normalized Ratio to within the Therapeutic Range after Excessive Anticoagulation with Warfarin 393

E.M. Hylek, S. Regan, A.S. Go, R.A. Hughes, D.E. Singer, and S.J. Skates

Steady-state warfarin dose, advanced age, and extreme elevation in international normalized ratio (INR) are risk factors for prolonged delay in return of the INR to within the therapeutic range. Decompensated congestive heart failure and active cancer greatly increase this risk.

Diagnostic Tests for Renal Artery Stenosis in Patients Suspected of Having Renovascular Hypertension: A Meta-Analysis 401

G.B.C. Vasbinder, P.J. Nelemans, A.G.H. Kessels, A.A. Kroon, P.W. de Leeuw, and J.M.A. van Engelsehoven

Computed tomography angiography and gadolinium-enhanced three-dimensional magnetic resonance angiography seem to be preferred in patients referred for evaluation of renovascular hypertension. However, because few studies of these tests have been published, further research is recommended.

Intravenous and Oral Itraconazole versus Intravenous Amphotericin B Deoxycholate as Empirical Antifungal Therapy for Persistent Fever in Neutropenic Patients with Cancer Who Are Receiving Broad-Spectrum Antibacterial Therapy. A Randomized, Controlled Trial 412

M. Boogaerts, D.J. Winston, E.J. Bow, G. Garber, A.C. Reboli, A.P. Schwazer, N. Novitzky, A. Boehme, E. Chwetzoff, K. De Beule, and the Itraconazole Neutropenia Study Group
Itraconazole and amphotericin B have at least equivalent efficacy when used as empirical antifungal therapy in neutropenic patients with cancer. However, itraconazole is associated with significantly less toxicity.

Sustained-Release Bupropion for Pharmacologic Relapse Prevention after Smoking Cessation. A Randomized, Controlled Trial 423

J.T. Hays, R.D. Hurt, N.A. Rigotti, R. Niaura, D. Gonzales, M.J. Durcan, D.P.L. Sachs, T.D. Wolter, A.S. Buist, J.A. Johnston, and J.D. White

In persons who had stopped smoking during 7 weeks of bupropion treatment, sustained-release bupropion for 12

months delayed smoking relapse and resulted in less weight gain compared with patients who received placebo.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Fatal Pseudomembranous Colitis Associated with a Variant *Clostridium difficile* Strain Not Detected by Toxin A Immunoassay 434

S. Johnson, S.A. Kent, K.J. O'Leary, M.M. Merrigan, S.P. Sambol, L.R. Peterson, and D.N. Gerding

Toxin A variant strains of *Clostridium difficile* cause serious disease and are undetectable in clinical laboratories that use only toxin A immunoassays for *C. difficile* testing.

UPDATES

Update in Cardiology 439

W.H. Frishman

This year's Update in Cardiology features key reports in major areas of cardiovascular medicine: prevention, unstable coronary syndromes, chronic cardiovascular disease, arrhythmias, and peripheral vascular disease.

Hypertriglyceridemic HyperapoB: The Unappreciated Atherogenic Dyslipoproteinemia in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus 447

A.D. Sniderman, T. Scantlebury, and K. Cianflone

The authors review the pathophysiology of hypertriglyceridemic hyperapoB, focusing on the changes in lipoprotein particle number and composition rather than lipoprotein lipid levels; summarize the in vitro and in vivo evidence that small, dense low-density lipoprotein (LDL) are more atherogenic than normal larger, buoyant LDL; and delineate the particularly high-risk state conferred by increased numbers of small, dense LDL.

EDITORIALS

Managing Excessive Warfarin Anticoagulation 460

H.I. Bussey

In this issue, Hylek and colleagues provide valuable new information that should improve the ability to manage excessive warfarin anticoagulation and reduce risk for bleeding. In the absence of more definitive data from prospective studies, this study may help physicians decide who should receive vitamin K, how much vitamin K is required, and how soon a follow-up international normalized ratio is indicated.

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F. Davidoff, C.D. DeAngelis, J.M. Drazen, The Editors of *The New Zealand Medical Journal*, J. Hoey, L. Højgaard, R. Horton, S. Kotzin, M. Nylenna, A.J.P.M. Overbeke, H.C. Sox, M.B. Van Der Weyden, and M.S. Wilkes

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ON BEING A DOCTOR

Pronouncing 467

B.M. Reilly

Looking back now, knowing what I know today about this place, it is easy to feel naive or stupid about what happened that night at Charlie's house. But this was 25 years ago, so I will tell you what I saw that night and how it strikes me now. But I may never know what really happened.

AD LIBITUM

The Cancer Cells Sum Up 470
R. Varcoe

LETTERS

Erythropoietin for Total Hip Joint Arthroplasty 471
J.T. Kontor; B.G. Feagan and C.J. Wong

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T. Reynolds

Cover photograph: Photographer unknown, circa 1900

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