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ARTICLES

Serologic and Clinical Outcomes of 1536 Alaska Natives Chronically Infected with Hepatitis B Virus 759

B.J. McMahon, P. Holck, L. Bulkow, and M. Snowball
Hepatitis B e antigen cleared in more than 70% of 1536 Alaska Native patients positive for hepatitis B surface antigen during the first 10 years of follow-up.

Aspirin as an Adjunct to Screening for Prevention of Sporadic Colorectal Cancer. A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis 769

U. Ladabaum, C.L. Chopra, G. Huang, J.M. Scheiman, M.E. Chernew, and A.M. Fendrick
In patients undergoing colorectal cancer screening, aspirin use should not be based on potential chemoprevention. Aspirin chemoprophylaxis alone cannot be considered a substitute for colorectal cancer screening. Public policy should focus on improving screening adherence, even in patients who are already taking aspirin.

Effects of *CCR5-Δ32*, *CCR2-64I*, and *SDF-1 3'A* Alleles on HIV-1 Disease Progression: An International Meta-Analysis of Individual-Patient Data 782

J.P.A. Ioannidis, P.S. Rosenberg, J.J. Goedert, L.J. Ashton, T.L. Benfield, S.P. Buchbinder, R.A. Coutinho, J. Eugen-Olsen, T. Gallart, T.L. Katzenstein, L.G. Kostrikis, H. Kuipers, L.G. Louie, S.A. Mallal, J.B. Margolick, O.P. Martinez, L. Meyer, N.L. Michael, E. Operskalski, G. Pantaleo, G.P. Rizzard, H. Schuitemaker, H.W. Sheppard, G.J. Stewart, I.D. Theodorou, H. Ullum, E. Vicenzi, D. Vlahov, D. Wilkinson, C. Workman, J.-F. Zagury, and T.R. O'Brien, for the International Meta-Analysis of HIV Host Genetics
The *CCR5-Δ32* and *CCR2-64I* alleles had a strong protective effect on progression of HIV-1 infection, but *SDF-1 3'A* homozygosity carried no such protection.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Children and Adolescents in a Hyperendemic Area: 15 Years after Mass Hepatitis B Vaccination 796

Y.-H. Ni, M.-H. Chang, L.-M. Huang, H.-L. Chen, H.-Y. Hsu, T.-Y. Chiu, K.-S. Tsai, and D.-S. Chen
Universal vaccination in Taiwan significantly decreased the hepatitis B virus (HBV) carrier rate and infection rate among children and adolescents born since the program began in 1984. By decreasing the carrier pool, continuation of the national hepatitis B immunization program should prevent

HBV infection in the children of Taiwan and, subsequently, adults as well.

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Unrecognized Myocardial Infarction 801

S.E. Sheifer, T.A. Manolio, and B.J. Gersh
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Ventricular Septal Defects in Adults 812

N.M. Ammash and C.A. Warnes
Because congenital ventricular septal defects are of different sizes and locations, their clinical presentation, natural history, and treatment vary greatly. This review discusses the different types of ventricular septal defects commonly seen in adults.

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Clinical Inertia 825

L.S. Phillips, W.T. Branch Jr., C.B. Cook, J.P. Doyle, I.M. El-Kebbi, D.L. Gallina, C.D. Miller, D.C. Ziemer, and C.S. Barnes
Medicine has traditionally focused on relieving patient symptoms. However, in developed countries, maintaining good health increasingly involves management of such problems as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes, which often have no symptoms. Limitations in managing such problems are often due to clinical inertia—failure of health care providers to initiate or intensify therapy when indicated.

EDITORIAL

Protecting Future Generations through Immunization against Hepatitis B 835

M.J. Alter
As suggested by the papers by McMahon and Ni and coworkers in this issue, expanding the cohorts of children immunized as infants and decreasing the number of hepatitis B e antigen-positive persons will ensure that future generations are protected from hepatitis B virus infection and its consequences. However, without a nationwide program to vaccinate adults at increased risk for this infection, acute disease will continue to occur and transmission of hepatitis B virus will not be eliminated for decades.

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