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ARTICLES

Mechanism of Cocaine-Induced Hyperthermia in Humans 785

C.G. Crandall, W. Vongpatanasin, and R.G. Victor

In humans, impaired heat dissipation is a major mechanism by which cocaine elevates body temperature. When healthy, cocaine-naïve persons are subjected to passive heating, pretreatment with even a small dose of intranasal cocaine impairs sweating and cutaneous vasodilation (the major autonomic adjustments to thermal stress) and heat perception (the key trigger for behavioral adjustments).

Chlorhexidine Compared with Povidone-Iodine 792

Solution for Vascular Catheter-Site Care:

A Meta-Analysis

N. Chaiyakunapruk, D.L. Veenstra, B.A. Lipsky, and S. Saint
Bloodstream infections are significantly reduced in patients with central vascular lines who receive chlorhexidine gluconate versus povidone-iodine for skin site disinfection. Use of chlorhexidine gluconate rather than povidone-iodine for catheter-site care is a simple and effective means of reducing vascular catheter-related infections.

Clinical Assessment of Function among Women with a Recent Cerebrovascular Event: A Self-Reported versus Performance-Based Measure 802

P.L. Owens, E.H. Bradley, S.M. Horwitz, C.M. Viscoli, W.N. Kernan, L.M. Brass, P.M. Sarrel, and R.I. Horwitz
Self-reported and performance-based measures of function can differ in women who have experienced a recent cerebrovascular event. Although more difficult to collect, results of a performance-based measure may provide important information about long-term health outcomes.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

The Reliability of Medical Record Review for Estimating Adverse Event Rates 812

E.J. Thomas, D.M. Studdert, and T.A. Brennan

Estimates of adverse event rates from medical record review, including those reported by the U.S. Institute of Medicine in its 2000 report on medical errors, are highly sensitive to the degree of consensus and confidence among reviewers.

ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

The Placebo Effect in Alternative Medicine: Can the Performance of a Healing Ritual Have Clinical Significance? 817

T.J. Kaptchuk

This essay looks at the placebo effect of alternative medicine as a distinct entity by reviewing current knowledge about the placebo effect and how it may pertain to alternative medicine. Five components of the placebo effect—patient, practitioner, patient-practitioner interaction, nature of the illness, and treatment and setting—are examined.

The Wrong Patient 826

M.R. Chassin and E.C. Becher

Among all types of medical errors, cases in which the wrong patient undergoes an invasive procedure are sufficiently distressing to warrant special attention. Nevertheless, institutions underreport such procedures, and the medical literature contains few discussions about them. This article examines the case of a patient who was mistakenly taken for another patient's invasive electrophysiology procedure.

REVIEW

The Commonality of Risk Factors for Nosocomial Colonization and Infection with Antimicrobial-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, Enterococcus, Gram-Negative Bacilli, *Clostridium difficile*, and *Candida* 834

N. Safdar and D.G. Maki

Recent years have witnessed a rapidly growing crisis in antimicrobial resistance, especially among microorganisms that cause nosocomial infection. To better understand common risk factors among multiresistant organisms, this review explores risk factors for nosocomial infection with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, vancomycin-resistant enterococcus, *Clostridium difficile*, extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing gram-negative bacilli, and *Candida*.

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Sedation, Alimentation, Hydration, and Equivocation: Careful Conversation about Care at the End of Life 845

L.A. Jansen and D.P. Sulmasy

This paper examines the various ways that the terms *terminal sedation* and *refusal of hydration and nutrition* have been used in the medical literature.

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