

# CONTENTS **Annals of Internal Medicine**

17 December 2002 137 12 939-1020

## ARTICLES

### **Treatment of the Common Cold with Unrefined Echinacea. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial** 939

**B.P. Barrett, R.L. Brown, K. Locken, R. Maberry, J.A. Bobula, and D. D'Alessio**

Compared with placebo, unrefined echinacea provided no detectable benefit or harm in college students who had the common cold.

### **Results of a Prospective Study of Acute Liver Failure at 17 Tertiary Care Centers in the United States** 947

**G. Ostapowicz, R.J. Fontana, F.V. Schiødt, A. Larson, T.J. Davern, S.H.B. Han, T.M. McCashland, A.O. Shakil, J.E. Hay, L. Hyman, J.S. Crippin, A.T. Blei, G. Samuel, J. Reisch, W.M. Lee, and the U.S. Acute Liver Failure Study Group**

Acetaminophen overdose and idiosyncratic drug reactions have replaced viral hepatitis as the most frequent causes of acute liver failure. The cause of liver failure and coma grade at admission were associated with outcome. Although transplantation may improve patient survival, most patients did not need it or could not get it.

### **Residual Venous Thrombosis as a Predictive Factor of Recurrent Venous Thromboembolism** 955

**P. Prandoni, A.W.A. Lensing, M.H. Prins, E. Bernardi, A. Marchiori, P. Bagatella, M. Frulla, L. Mosena, D. Tormene, A. Piccioli, P. Simioni, and A. Girolami**

Residual venous thrombosis after discontinuing anticoagulation is an important risk factor for recurrent thromboembolism. Assessing residual venous thrombosis with ultrasonography may help clinicians to identify patients who need prolonged anticoagulation.

## BRIEF COMMUNICATION

### **Prevalence of Liver Disease in a Population of Asymptomatic Persons with Hepatitis C Virus Infection** 961

**A. Alberti, F. Noventa, L. Benvegnù, S. Boccato, and A. Gatta**

Up to 40% of asymptomatic persons with hepatitis C virus infection have histologically active and progressive hepatitis. The severity of liver disease correlates with abnormal alanine aminotransferase levels and increases with age.

## ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

### **Credentialing Complementary and Alternative Medical Providers** 965

**D.M. Eisenberg, M.H. Cohen, A. Hrbek, J. Grayzel, M.I. Van Rompay, and R.A. Cooper**

This article describes models for health care credentialing of chiropractors, acupuncturists, naturopaths, massage therapists, and other complementary and alternative medical (CAM) practitioners. It also suggests a strategy of CAM provider credentialing for use by physicians, health care administrators, insurance companies, and national professional organizations.

## UPDATE

### **Update in Infectious Diseases** 974

**B. Lorber**

This Update covers terrorist threats to the health of the public, new approaches to some familiar clinical problems, newly recognized disorders, novel treatments for infectious diseases, HIV infection, and infectious complications of treatment for other illnesses.

## REVIEW

### **Novel Insights in the Congenital Long QT Syndrome** 981

**X.H.T. Wehrens, M.A. Vos, P.A. Doevendans, and H.J.J. Wellens**

The congenital long QT syndrome is a potentially life-threatening condition caused by mutations in genes encoding cardiac ion channels. The increasing understanding of the mechanisms responsible for these conditions should lead to genotype-specific therapy.

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE

### **Smallpox Manifestations and Survival during the Boston Epidemic of 1901 to 1903** 993

**M.R. Albert, K.G. Ostheimer, D.J. Liewehr, S.M. Steinberg, and J.G. Breman**

The authors describe clinical manifestations of smallpox during Boston's last major epidemic (1901–1903) and analyze factors associated with survival among patients admitted to one hospital.

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EDITORIAL

**Echinacea for the Common Cold: Can Alternative Medicine Be Evidence-Based Medicine?** 1001

R.B. Turner

The study by Barrett and colleagues in this issue is a valuable contribution to the literature on echinacea because it addresses many shortcomings of earlier studies. Although the study was carefully done and the results are clear, their work is not likely to end the discussion about the efficacy of echinacea for the common cold.

ON BEING A DOCTOR

**The Healing Touch** 1003

L. Opatrny

He reached out to grasp my resting hand. Then, suddenly, this man, who had until now spoken and moved so very slowly, started rapidly and vigorously rubbing my hand between both of his. "To warm you up, doctor. My wife also gets cold when she's tired. This has always helped her," Mr. B. explained, never taking his eyes off his task. "You should be sleeping to take care of yourself instead of old men like me," he added.

ON BEING A PATIENT

**Trust** 1004

S.C. Durso

I was struck by the irony of this doctor-patient relationship. In the office our relationship was conventional. He was the heart patient and I was his doctor. The marsh was different. Here Ezra and I were in each other's hands.

AD LIBITUM

**Geode** 1000

J. Coulehan

**Cockroach** 1006

J. Coulehan

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*Letters available only at [www.annals.org](http://www.annals.org)*

**Careful Conversation about Care at the End of Life**

T. Morita, S. Tsuneto, and Y. Shima; J.H. Kvasnicka

THANKS TO REVIEWERS 1015

Cover photograph by Tommaso Virnicchi

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