

CONTENTS *Annals of Internal Medicine*

1 July 2003 139 1 1-80

ARTICLES

Eczematous Skin Disease and Recall of Past Diagnoses: Implications for Smallpox Vaccination 1

A.L. Naleway, E.A. Belongia, R.T. Greenlee, B.A. Kieke Jr., R.T. Chen, and D.K. Shay

Relying only on a self-reported history of eczematous skin disease will miss a substantial proportion of individuals who should not receive smallpox vaccine in a preexposure vaccination campaign.

Should Immunoglobulin Therapy Be Used in Allogeneic Stem-Cell Transplantation? A Randomized, Double-Blind, Dose Effect, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Trial 8

C. Cordonnier, S. Chevret, M. Legrand, H. Rafi, N. Dhédin, B. Lehmann, F. Bassompierre, and E. Gluckman, for the GREFIG Study Group

This clinical trial showed that prophylactic immunoglobulin is not effective in patients undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation.

Extended Oral Anticoagulant Therapy after a First Episode of Pulmonary Embolism 19

G. Agnelli, P. Prandoni, C. Becattini, M. Silingardi, M.R. Taliani, M. Miccio, D. Imberti, R. Poggio, W. Ageno, E. Pogliani, F. Porro, and P. Zoncin, for the Warfarin Optimal Duration Italian Trial Investigators

Patients with pulmonary embolism have a substantial risk for recurrence after stopping oral anticoagulation, regardless of the length of treatment. Physicians should try to identify patients who may benefit from indefinite oral anticoagulation because of their high risk for recurrent venous thromboembolism.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Slower Progression of HIV-1 Infection in Persons with GB Virus C Co-Infection Correlates with an Intact T-Helper 1 Cytokine Profile 26

G. Nunnari, L. Nigro, F. Palermo, M. Attanasio, A. Berger, H.W. Doerr, R.J. Pomerantz, and B. Cacopardo

GB virus C may interfere with progression of HIV-1 infection by maintaining an intact T-helper 1 cytokine profile.

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

Computer Physician Order Entry: Benefits, Costs, and Issues 31

G.J. Kuperman and R.F. Gibson

The authors examine the potential benefits and costs of computer physician order entry. They also describe issues to consider before implementation of this type of order entry system.

ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

The Rise of Litigation in Human Subjects Research 40

M.M. Mello, D.M. Studdert, and T.A. Brennan

While litigation may serve a valuable compensation function for injured participants in human subjects research, it will also profoundly affect institutional review procedures. More mechanistic ethical review, a likely outcome, will not further the interests of human subjects or scientific progress.

REVIEW

Test Characteristics of α -Fetoprotein for Detecting Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Patients with Hepatitis C. A Systematic Review and Critical Analysis 46

S. Gupta, S. Bent, and J. Kohlwes

According to the "best-case" estimates of α -fetoprotein sensitivity and specificity, this test is not effective for detecting hepatocellular carcinoma in hepatitis C virus-infected patients.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Routine Vitamin Supplementation To Prevent Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease: Recommendations and Rationale 51

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the evidence is insufficient to recommend for or against the use of supplements of vitamins A, C, or E; multivitamins with folic acid; or antioxidant combinations to prevent cancer or cardiovascular disease. The Task Force recommends against the use of β -carotene supplements, either alone or in combination, for preventing cancer or cardiovascular disease.

Continued on page I-2

Routine Vitamin Supplementation To Prevent Cardiovascular Disease: A Summary of the Evidence for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force 56

C.D. Morris and S. Carson

This systematic review evaluates the evidence that routine vitamin supplementation reduces the risk for cancer and cardiovascular disease.

EDITORIAL

Minimizing Risk in Clinical Research 71

D.D. Federman

The paper by Mello and colleagues in this issue describes the growth of litigation about protection of participants in research trials, and a letter by Humphreys and associates reports on the costs of institutional review boards. Reconciling the pursuit of new knowledge with minimizing risk to patients and preserving their freedom to sue may prove impossible. In the event of an impasse, society should construct a procedure to compensate research subjects who come to harm.

ON BEING A DOCTOR

The Aftermath of a Fall 73

K. Hinami

My grandfather, like many, endures the indignity of falling apart. I am powerless and cannot prevent him from falling further. I can only prevent him from falling alone.

The Cost of Medicine 74

S.K. Bhat

It feels routine now, this mundane ordering of expensive tests with no questions asked about cost. No more do I feel the sense of wonder and amazement that suffused me when I first started working as a physician in the United States. But today, as I order the scan and look into the eyes of this 92-year-old lady with a dying body that all these thousands of dollars will not save, I think back to the boy.

LETTERS

Comments and Responses

Improved Outcomes in a Voluntary Hospitalist Model 76
D. Neely; A.D. Auerbach, R.M. Wachter, and L. Goldman

The Who, What, When, Where, Whom, and How of Hospitalist Care 76

G.D. Schiff

Clinical Observations

The Cost of Institutional Review Board Procedures in Multicenter Observational Research 77

K. Humphreys, J. Trafton, and T.H. Wagner

Developing and Implementing a Program of Grand Rounds for Internists That Is Free of Commercial Bias 77

B.J. McMahon, R. Neubauer, B. Janis, S. Tucker, and M. Agnew

A New Cutaneous Sign of Mercury Poisoning 78

P.I. Dantzig

Letters available only at www.annals.org

Routine Tandem Transplantation for Patients with Myeloma

J. Mehta; K. Imrie and R.M. Meyer

Bent (Head-Down) Posture and Aberrant Internal Carotid Artery in the Mouth: A New Risk Factor for Stroke?

K. Tsunoda, R. Murakami, J. Aikawa, Y. Sakai, and Y.S. Kikkawa

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Authors' Form I-4

Information for Authors I-5

Presubmission Checklist I-14

Conflict of Interest Notification Page I-15

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement I-16