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Outcomes and Prognostic Factors in 267 Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong 715

K.W. Choi, T.N. Chau, O. Tsang, E. Tso, M.C. Chiu, W.L. Tong, P.O. Lee, T.K. Ng, W.F. Ng, K.C. Lee, W. Lam, W.C. Yu, J.Y. Lai, S.T. Lai, and the Princess Margaret Hospital SARS Study Group

This study suggests that some patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome do not present with respiratory symptoms even though they have lung infiltrates. Advanced age and high initial serum lactate dehydrogenase level predict mortality.

Effectiveness of Leech Therapy in Osteoarthritis of the Knee. A Randomized, Controlled Trial 724

A. Michalsen, S. Klotz, R. Lüdtkke, S. Moebus, G. Spahn, and G.J. Dobos

Patients with osteoarthritis of the knee have reduced symptoms for at least 1 week after application of leeches. The pharmacologic properties of leech saliva that are responsible for this effect are not known.

Systolic Blood Pressure, Diastolic Blood Pressure, and Pulse Pressure: An Evaluation of Their Joint Effect on Mortality 731

R. Pastor-Barriuso, J.R. Banegas, J. Damián, L.J. Appel, and E. Guallar

Increasing systolic blood pressure increases all-cause and cardiovascular mortality over a wide range of blood pressure. In older people, the relationship of diastolic blood pressure to mortality is J-shaped. Therefore, the association of pulse pressure with mortality is complex, which makes it less useful as a guide to treatment or prognosis.

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

The Quality of Medical Care Provided to Vulnerable Community-Dwelling Older Patients 740

N.S. Wenger, D.H. Solomon, C.P. Roth, C.H. MacLean, D. Saliba, C.J. Kamberg, L.Z. Rubenstein, R.T. Young, E.M. Sloss, R. Louie, J. Adams, J.T. Chang, P.J. Venus, J.F. Schnelle, and P.G. Shekelle

Vulnerable older people do not receive adequate care for many conditions. Care for geriatric conditions is much less likely to be optimal than care for general medical conditions.

UPDATE

Update in Critical Care 748

J.M. Luce

This Update discusses cardiac arrest, pulmonary embolism, the acute respiratory distress syndrome, aspergillosis, sepsis and septic shock, bacterial meningitis, carbon monoxide poisoning, and methanol poisoning.

REVIEWS

Transcatheter Closure versus Medical Therapy of Patent Foramen Ovale and Presumed Paradoxical Thromboemboli. A Systematic Review 753

P. Khairy, C.P. O'Donnell, and M.J. Landzberg

Paradoxical thromboembolism through a patent foramen ovale may be an important mechanism of cryptogenic stroke. This review shows that transcatheter closure of a patent foramen ovale is associated with a lower rate of recurrent stroke than treatment with antiplatelet agents or warfarin anticoagulation.

Pathogenesis of Hypertension 761

S. Oparil, M.A. Zaman, and D.A. Calhoun

Increased recognition of specific causes of hypertension may lead to therapies that address specific pathophysiologic mechanisms and cause fewer adverse effects. Research to identify such therapies will use powerful new techniques of genetics, genomics, and proteomics in conjunction with systems physiology and population studies.

PERSPECTIVE

ALLHAT, or the Soft Science of the Secondary End Point 777

F.H. Messerli

In the recent Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT), the incidence of the primary end point was identical in the chlorthalidone, lisinopril, and amlodipine groups. The authors based their widely publicized major conclusion—that thiazide diuretics are the preferred first-line antihypertensive therapy—solely on secondary end points and cost.

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EDITORIALS

Multidisciplinary Integrative Approach to Treating Knee Pain in Patients with Osteoarthritis 781

M.C. Hochberg

Although future studies might show that leech therapy is a practical, effective therapy for osteoarthritis of the knee, the work by Michalsen and colleagues in this issue is most exciting precisely because it raises the possibility of a novel, analgesic agent that could be safely administered without the need for a leech bite.

Establishing Benchmarks for Quality Care for an Aging Population: Caring for Vulnerable Older Adults 784

L.P. Fried

In this issue, Wenger and colleagues found that preventive care, chronic care, and care of geriatric conditions in U.S. vulnerable elders are often suboptimal. We need to focus much more attention on medical care for the most vulnerable third of the older population. Reimbursement practices must change so that they support practice patterns necessary to provide such care.

Patent Cardiac Foramen Ovale: Stroke Risk and Closure 787

J.P. Mohr and S. Homma

Khairy and colleagues' review of uncontrolled studies suggests that closure of a patent foramen ovale is associated with a lower rate of recurrent stroke than treatment with antiplatelet agents or warfarin anticoagulation. Proving this point will require a prospective controlled clinical trial.

ON BEING A DOCTOR

Tattoo 789

M.L. Willoughby

He didn't feel very likable when he was on call. He must have made his family just as miserable as he made himself, since they seemed to dread his call days almost as much as he did. This call day was unexpected, and he was grateful that he hadn't had time to dread it.

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C. Chen-Scarabelli and T.M. Scarabelli

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A. Astor, G. Sreenivasan, and M. Danis

Distinct Responses of Membranoproliferative Glomerulonephritis-Related Proteinuria to Spironolactone with and without Angiotensin II Blockade

K. Yonemura, H. Yasuda, and A. Hishida

Paradoxical Lowering of High-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Level in 2 Patients Taking Fenofibrate and a Thiazolidinedione

Z. Ebcioğlu, J. Morgan, C. Carey, and D. Capuzzi

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