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ARTICLES

A Clinical Prediction Rule for Diagnosing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the Emergency Department 333

G.M. Leung, T.H. Rainer, F.-L. Lau, I.O.L. Wong, A. Tong, T.-W. Wong, J.H.B. Kong, A.J. Hedley, and T.-H. Lam, for the Hospital Authority SARS Collaborative Group

A simple model uses clinical data at the time of presentation to an emergency department during an acute outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome to identify patients with a high likelihood of this infection. For the free electronic version of the decision aid for this article, go to www.annals.org/pda.

Summary for Patients 1-12

Cost-Effectiveness of Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy in Patients with Symptomatic Heart Failure 343

G. Nichol, P. Kaul, E. Huszti, and J.F.P. Bridges

The incremental cost per quality-adjusted life-year for cardiac resynchronization is similar to that of other commonly used interventions but is sensitive to changes in several key variables. Clinicians should not recommend resynchronization therapy for patients with comorbid illness that shortens life expectancy.

Summary for Patients 1-29

Location of Adenomas Missed by Optical Colonoscopy 352

P.J. Pickhardt, P.A. Nugent, P.A. Mysliwiec, J.R. Choi, and W.R. Schindler

Neither optical colonoscopy nor virtual colonoscopy is a perfect test: Each misses 10% to 14% of adenomas that measure 6 mm or greater.

Summary for Patients 1-42

Clinical Characteristics and Functional Outcomes of West Nile Fever 360

J.T. Watson, P.E. Pertel, R.C. Jones, A.M. Siston, W.S. Paul, C.C. Austin, and S.I. Gerber

West Nile fever is a more severe illness than has previously been documented. Mandatory reporting of West Nile fever cases in addition to West Nile meningoencephalitis cases could allow more accurate and timely recognition of the geographic distribution of West Nile virus infections and could inform public health interventions.

Summary for Patients 1-53

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

A Controlled Trial To Increase Detection and Treatment of Osteoporosis in Older Patients with a Wrist Fracture 366

S.R. Majumdar, B.H. Rowe, D. Folk, J.A. Johnson, B.H. Holroyd, D.W. Morrish, W.P. Maksymowych, I.P. Steiner, C.H. Harley, B.J. Wirzba, D.A. Hanley, S. Blitz, and A.S. Russell

In a multifaceted intervention directed at patients and their physicians, the rates of testing and treatment for osteoporosis after emergency department care for a fragility fracture were more than 3 times the rates in controls.

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UPDATE

Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology 374

N.J. Greenberger and P. Sharma

This year's Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology incorporates articles on screening and surveillance for Barrett esophagus, antimicrobial resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*, treatment for recurrent ulcer bleeding, celiac disease diagnosis, optimal treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, probiotics for antibiotic-associated diarrhea, aspirin for preventing colorectal adenomas, chronic liver disease diagnosis, and the causes of acute liver failure.

REVIEW

Systematic Review: Cardiac Resynchronization in Patients with Symptomatic Heart Failure 381

F.A. McAlister, J.A. Ezekowitz, N. Wiebe, B. Rowe, C. Spooner, E. Crumley, L. Hartling, T. Klassen, and W. Abraham

In selected patients with heart failure, cardiac resynchronization therapy improves functional and hemodynamic status, reduces heart failure hospitalizations, and may reduce all-cause mortality.

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MEDICINE AND PUBLIC ISSUES

Assessing the New Medicare Prescription Drug Law 391
R.B. Doherty
 This paper explains the policy decisions that shaped the Medicare Modernization Act. It describes the new private health plan options and improvements to traditional Medicare and discusses the impact on beneficiaries in different income and assets categories.

EDITORIALS

Accurate Clinical Prediction of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome: Are We There Yet? 396
J.A. Jernigan, R.F. Helfand, and U.D. Parashar
 If severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) recurs, we will need accurate clinical strategies for detecting early cases so that we don't overburden the health care and public health systems with patients who are concerned about SARS but don't have it. In this issue, Leung and colleagues report on a decision rule that may prove helpful as an early case-detection strategy. We hope that other centers will try to validate this decision rule so that we will know if we have a proven strategy for coping with future outbreaks of SARS.

Cardiac Resynchronization for Heart Failure 399
M.A. Hlatky and B.M. Massie
 In this issue, McAlister and associates summarize the evidence on cardiac resynchronization therapy for heart failure, and Nichol and coworkers analyze the cost-effectiveness of this therapy. Cardiac resynchronization therapy may be worth its high cost if it substantially improves patient survival, quality of life, or both. The weight of current evidence suggests that this therapy does improve functional status and quality of life.

Colonoscopy: As Good as Gold? 401
D. Lieberman
 Colonoscopy, as a gold standard, has lost some of its glitter. Nevertheless, it remains the preeminent procedure for diagnosing and treating colonic neoplasia. The data on colonoscopy accuracy, such as the findings reported in a study in this issue, are a humbling reminder of the limitations of colonoscopy.

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Talking with Donna 395
N. Martin

ON BEING A PATIENT

Physician as Patient: Lessons To Learn 404
P.A. Beatty
 I lost my vision when I awoke on the morning of the anniversary of my wife's death from disseminated breast cancer. As a physician, I had rarely given much credence to "stress" as a factor in illness. I am more of a believer now.

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Letter available only at www.annals.org

Noninvasive Ventilation in Exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Implications of Different Meta-Analytic Strategies

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