

CONTENTS **Annals of Internal Medicine**

5 October 2004 141 7 493-580

ARTICLES

Prednisone plus Methotrexate for Polymyalgia Rheumatica. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial 493

R. Caporali, M.A. Cimmino, G. Ferraccioli, R. Gerli, C. Klersy, C. Salvarani, and C. Montecucco, for the Systemic Vasculitis Study Group of the Italian Society for Rheumatology

The purpose of combination therapy with prednisone and methotrexate in polymyalgia rheumatica is to reduce the amount of prednisone required to maintain remission. In this randomized trial, the addition of methotrexate to prednisone reduced the incidence of flare-ups and the amount of prednisone needed to maintain remission.

Summary for Patients 1-12

Screening for *Chlamydia trachomatis* in Women 15 to 29 Years of Age: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis 501

D. Hu, E.W. Hook III, and S.J. Goldie

Annual *Chlamydia trachomatis* screening for all women 15 to 29 years of age and selective targeting of those with a history of infection for semiannual screening is very cost-effective. This analysis extends the upper end of the recommended age range for screening from age 25 to age 29.

Summary for Patients 1-29

The Effect of Long-Term Intake of cis Unsaturated Fats on the Risk for Gallstone Disease in Men. A Prospective Cohort Study 514

C.-J. Tsai, M.F. Leitzmann, W.C. Willett, and E.L. Giovannucci

A high intake of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats reduces cholesterol biosynthesis. In this long-term study of a large cohort of men, a diet high in unsaturated fats was associated with a reduced risk for gallstone disease.

Summary for Patients 1-43

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

A Multimethod Quality Improvement Intervention To Improve Preventive Cardiovascular Care. A Cluster Randomized Trial 523

S. Ornstein, R.G. Jenkins, P.J. Nietert, C. Feifer, L.F. Roylance, L. Nemeth, S. Corley, L. Dickerson, W.D. Bradford, and C. Litvin

In this trial of 20 primary care practices, intervention practices received quarterly site visits, had meetings about quality improvement, and received copies of practice guidelines and quarterly performance reports. Control practices received only the guidelines and performance reports. Both groups

had about the same improvement in providing guideline-recommended care for cardiovascular disease.

Summary for Patients 1-53

Lost in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities for Improving the Quality of Transitional Care 533

E.A. Coleman and R.A. Berenson

Transitional care is concerned with assuring continuity of purpose during the transfer from one level of care to another. It is a time of risk to the patient, at least in part because the involved health professionals do not take responsibility for assuring a smooth transition.

REVIEWS

Systematic Review: Computed Tomography and Ultrasonography To Detect Acute Appendicitis in Adults and Adolescents 537

T. Terasawa, C.C. Blackmore, S. Bent, and R.J. Kohlwes

Computed tomography is probably more accurate than ultrasonography for diagnosing appendicitis in adults and adolescents. This conclusion is uncertain because we have so few studies in which all study participants received the gold standard diagnostic reference test.

Malaria-Related Deaths among U.S. Travelers, 1963–2001 547

R.D. Newman, M.E. Parise, A.M. Barber, and R.W. Steketee

This systematic review of malaria deaths in the United States from 1963 through 2001 describes trends, elucidates risk factors, and identifies potential public health actions to prevent future malaria-related deaths among U.S. travelers.

MEDICINE AND PUBLIC ISSUES

Insuring the Uninsured: Will the 2004 Election Provide an Answer? 556

T. Bodenheimer

The author discusses universal health insurance strategies, summarizes and critiques the Bush and Kerry health insurance plans, and explores the use of tax credits to facilitate the purchase of individual insurance policies. He contrasts the presidential candidates' proposed strategies to those of professional organizations such as the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association.

Continued on page I-8

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Primary Care Management of Chronic Stable Angina and Asymptomatic Suspected or Known Coronary Artery Disease: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the American College of Physicians 562

V. Snow, P. Barry, S.D. Fihn, R.J. Gibbons, D.K. Owens, S.V. Williams, C. Mottur-Pilson, and K.B. Weiss, for the American College of Physicians/American College of Cardiology Chronic Stable Angina Panel

This paper summarizes the treatment and follow-up recommendations of the 2002 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guideline. It covers patients with chronic stable angina who have not had a recent acute myocardial infarction or revascularization procedure and asymptomatic patients with known or suspected coronary disease based on electrocardiographic evidence of previous myocardial infarction, coronary angiography, or abnormal results on noninvasive tests.

EDITORIALS

Methotrexate in Polymyalgia Rheumatica: Kernel of Truth or Curse of Tantalus? 568

J.H. Stone

Readers must decide whether Caporali and colleagues' trial of methotrexate in polymyalgia rheumatica reveals a kernel of truth about methotrexate or bespeaks the curse of Tantalus: a desirable result placed just beyond the reach of those who would grasp it.

Chlamydia Screening: Expanding the Scope 570

W.E. Stamm

The findings reported by Hu and colleagues in this issue reinforce recommended practice for chlamydia screening and force us to confront our failure to fully implement the clinical practices that the evidence so strongly supports.

AD LIBITUM

A Run at Dusk 536

J. Latzman

Signs 572

R. Varcoe

ON BEING A DOCTOR

Northwoods Elegy 573

D.P. Steensma

I've learned from past trips that it may be easy to escape the daily routine of the clinic, but it is not so simple to leave the

patients behind. During breaks from paddling, when my friend and I let our small boat drift aimlessly in the current, I often find myself puzzling over an ongoing difficult case, wondering how an old patient is doing, or simply remembering. Today I can't get the French man out of my mind.

LETTERS

Comments and Responses

Survival versus Prognosis in Alzheimer Disease 575

L.C. Kaldjian; E.B. Larson, J.D. Bowen, and W.C. McCormick

Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adults 575

J.D. Rich, L.E. Taylor, and S.A. Allen; N. Calonge and J.D. Allan

Addressing the Limitations of Structured Abstracts 576

M.E. Falagas and P.I. Vergidis

Selective Decontamination of the Digestive Tract and Prevention of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia 577

P. Baines and H. van Saene; H.R. Collard, S. Saint, and M.A. Matthay

The Domain of General Internal Medicine: A Perspective from Trainees 578

V. Arora and P. Hemstreet; E.B. Larson

Clinical Observation

Variability in Diagnostic Probability Estimates 578

M.A. Puhan, J. Steurer, L.M. Bachmann, and G. ter Riet

Letter available only at www.annals.org

Chronic Pancreatitis Associated with Adult-Onset Type II Citrullinemia: Clinical and Pathologic Findings

S. Ikeda, S. Kawa, Y. Takei, K. Yamamoto, H. Shimojo, K. Tabata, K. Kobayashi, and T. Saeki

MEDICAL WRITINGS

Book Notes 580

Cover photograph by Gary Reisfeld

Authors' Form I-17

Presubmission Checklist I-30

Physician Products & Services I-54

Classified Services Begin on I-63

Subscription and Business Information I-87