

CONTENTS **Annals of Internal Medicine**

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ARTICLES

Trends in the Incidence of Venous Thromboembolism during Pregnancy or Postpartum: A 30-Year Population-Based Study 697

J.A. Heit, C.E. Kobbervig, A.H. James, T.M. Petterson, K.R. Bailey, and L.J. Melton III

The incidence of venous thromboembolism during pregnancy has remained constant in the past 30 years. While the incidence of pulmonary embolism has been much higher in the postpartum period, it has decreased sharply in the past decade. Women younger than age 20 years and older than age 35 years are at greatest risk. The benefits and harms of prophylaxis with anticoagulants are not known in these patients.

The Relationship between Condom Use and Herpes Simplex Virus Acquisition 707

A. Wald, A.G.M. Langenberg, E. Krantz, J.M. Douglas Jr., H.H. Handsfield, R.P. DiCarlo, A.A. Adimora, A.E. Izu, R.A. Morrow, and L. Corey

The authors evaluated the relationship between condom use and acquisition of herpes simplex virus (HSV)-2 and HSV-1. In this observational study, consistent use of condoms was associated with lower rates of acquisition of HSV-2. Reducing the risk for HSV-2 acquisition is another reason for people at high risk for sexually transmitted disease to use condoms.

Impact of Efavirenz on Neuropsychological Performance and Symptoms in HIV-Infected Individuals 714

D.B. Clifford, S. Evans, Y. Yang, E.P. Acosta, K. Goodkin, K. Tashima, D. Simpson, D. Dorfman, H. Ribaud, and R.M. Gulick, for the A5097s Study Team

Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) regimens often include efavirenz. Physicians caring for HIV-infected patients have attributed adverse neuropsychological effects to efavirenz. In this substudy of a randomized trial, patients taking efavirenz had more neurologic symptoms during week 1 of treatment than patients taking placebo, but the rates were similar at weeks 4, 12, or 24.

The Metabolic Syndrome as a Predictor of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease 722

M. Hamaguchi, T. Kojima, N. Takeda, T. Nakagawa, H. Taniguchi, K. Fujii, T. Omatsu, T. Nakajima, H. Sarui, M. Shimazaki, T. Kato, J. Okuda, and K. Ida

The authors examined the role of the metabolic syndrome in

the development of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in 4401 Japanese men and women. At baseline, 812 of participants had NAFLD. During follow-up, NAFLD developed in 10% of 3147 participants who were free of NAFLD at baseline. Having the metabolic syndrome at baseline was a strong predictor of developing NAFLD.

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

Quality of HIV Care Provided by Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Physicians 729

I.B. Wilson, B.E. Landon, L.R. Hirschhorn, K. McInnes, L. Ding, P.V. Marsden, and P.D. Cleary

According to 8 quality-of-care measures assessed by medical record review, the quality of HIV care by nurse practitioners and physician assistants was similar to that provided by physician HIV care experts and was generally better than that provided by physicians who were not HIV care experts.

UPDATE

Update in Cardiology 737

P.H. Stone

This Update covers the highlights of an extraordinary year in cardiology, including important research in the areas of unstable and stable coronary artery syndromes, risk factors for atherosclerotic disease, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, peripheral vascular disease, and valvular heart disease.

PERSPECTIVE

The Terri Schiavo Case: Legal, Ethical, and Medical Perspectives 744

J.E. Perry, L.R. Churchill, and H.S. Kirshner

The conflicts and misunderstandings surrounding the plight of Terri Schiavo offer important lessons in medicine, law, and ethics. The authors review the current medical understanding of the persistent vegetative state, examine the legal history of the case, and review alternative ethical frameworks for thinking about the case.

EDITORIALS

Thromboembolism in Pregnancy: A Continuing Conundrum 749

R.V. Lee

In this issue, Heit and colleagues provide solid clinical evidence to confirm current clinical wisdom: Pregnancy

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increases the risk for thromboembolism. No time during pregnancy is without thromboembolic risk.

An Ounce of Prevention 751

E.W. Hook III

In this issue, Wald and coworkers have further expanded the menu of proven measures for prevention of herpesvirus transmission, demonstrating that condoms protected men from genital herpes in a dose-dependent fashion. Strengths of the study include its multicenter design, the large number of carefully evaluated participants, and use of serologic measures for detection of infection.

Dangerous Liaisons: The Metabolic Syndrome and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease 753

E.E. Powell, J.R. Jonsson, and A.D. Clouston

In this issue, Hamaguchi and colleagues examined the relationship between the metabolic syndrome and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in healthy Japanese men and women drinking less than 20 g of ethanol per day. By identifying both prevalent and incident cases, the authors provide important new data on the rate of development or regression of NAFLD.

ON BEING A DOCTOR

Looking for Betty 755

J.E. Ollé-Goig

The laboratory results suggest tuberculosis. I start Betty immediately on antituberculosis medications through a nasogastric tube and streptomycin injections. Three days later, her temperature has dropped and she has begun to talk in a lively manner. On the morning of the fifth day, Betty is no longer in her bed. The nurses think that she was probably taken away during the night.

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D.A. Feinfeld

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“What Else?” Setting the Agenda for the Clinical Interview 766

L.H. Baker, D. O’Connell, and F.W. Platt

Because patients often have multiple symptoms, physicians must define an agenda for every medical encounter. Key tasks include discovering the patient’s and the clinician’s most urgent issues and deciding together which issues to address first.

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Cover photograph by Ajit Kashyap

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