

CONTENTS *Annals of Internal Medicine*

4 September 2001 135 5 313-392

ARTICLES

Restricted Activity among Community-Living Older Persons: Incidence, Precipitants, and Health Care Utilization 313

T.M. Gill, M.M. Desai, E.A. Gahbauer, T.R. Holford, and C.S. Williams

Restricted activity is common in community-living older persons, regardless of risk for disability, and it is usually attributable to several concurrent health-related problems. Although restricted activity is associated with a substantial increase in health care utilization, older persons with restricted activity often do not seek medical attention.

A Prospective Study of Asymptomatic Carriers of the Factor V Leiden Mutation To Determine the Incidence of Venous Thromboembolism 322

S. Middeldorp, J.R. Meinardi, M.M.W. Koopman, E.C.M. van Pampus, K. Hamulyák, J. van der Meer, M.H. Prins, and H.R. Büller

The absolute annual incidence of spontaneous venous thromboembolism in asymptomatic carriers of the factor V Leiden mutation is low and does not justify routine screening of the families of symptomatic patients.

Racial Differences in Cardiac Revascularization Rates: Does "Overuse" Explain Higher Rates among White Patients? 328

E.C. Schneider, L.L. Leape, J.S. Weissman, R.N. Piana, C. Gatsonis, and A.M. Epstein

Among a large and diverse sample of Medicare beneficiaries in five U.S. states, overuse of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty was greater in white men than in other groups, but this difference did not fully explain overall disparities in revascularization by race. Overuse of cardiac revascularization varied significantly by geographic region.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Molecular Analysis of the Mevalonate Kinase Gene in a Cohort of Patients with the Hyper-IgD and Periodic Fever Syndrome: Its Application as a Diagnostic Tool 338

A. Simon, L. Cuisset, M.-F. Vincent, S.D. van der Velde-Visser, M. Delpech, J.W.M. van der Meer, and J.P.H. Drenth, for the International HIDS Study Group

The hyper-IgD and periodic fever syndrome (HIDS) is characterized by recurrent attacks of fever, abdominal distress, and arthralgia and is caused by mevalonate kinase

mutations. This cross-sectional study from the Netherlands found that genetic heterogeneity exists among patients with a clinical diagnosis of HIDS.

ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

Perceptions about Complementary Therapies Relative to Conventional Therapies among Adults Who Use Both: Results from a National Survey 344

D.M. Eisenberg, R.C. Kessler, M.I. Van Rompay, T.J. Kaptchuk, S.A. Wilkey, S. Appel, and R.B. Davis

National survey data do not support the view that use of complementary and alternative medical (CAM) therapy in the United States primarily reflects dissatisfaction with conventional care. Adults who use both appear to value both forms of therapy and tend to be less concerned about their medical doctor's disapproval than their doctor's inability to understand or incorporate CAM therapy use.

REVIEW

Racial Differences in the Use of Invasive Cardiovascular Procedures: Review of the Literature and Prescription for Future Research 352

N.R. Kressin and L.A. Petersen

This review found racial differences in invasive cardiac procedure use even after adjustment for disease severity. Future studies should comprehensively and simultaneously examine the full range of patient, physician, and health care system variables related to racial differences in the provision of invasive cardiac procedures.

PERSPECTIVE

The Thrombophilias: Well-Defined Risk Factors with Uncertain Therapeutic Implications 367

K.A. Bauer

The author focuses on which patients should be screened for hereditary and other thrombophilias and on the implications of such a diagnosis on patient management.

EDITORIAL

Restricted Activity: Key Indicator of Decline or "Just Having a Bad Day"? 374

E.R. Marcantonio

Perhaps the most important question raised by Gill and colleagues' study in this issue is the significance of restricted

Continued on page I-2

activity. Is restricted activity a key marker of functional decline and long-term disability, or does it merely indicate intermittent difficulty in the performance of usual activities: in other words, an elderly person "having a bad day"? The answer to both questions is probably "yes."

AD LIBITUM

The Finished Product 376

B. Salomon

PERSONAE

Photograph by J. Hansen-Flaschen 377

ON BEING A PATIENT

Deep Waters Run Still 378

T.B. Schwartz

LETTERS

Methylene Blue Improves the Hepatopulmonary Syndrome 380

D.A. Groneberg and A. Fischer; P. Schenk, S. Lehr, and C. Müller

Periodic Liver Biopsy for Mild Hepatitis C 381

B. Kisloff; J.B. Wong and R.S. Koff

Cost-Effectiveness Analyses 382

C.M. Clark Jr.; L.A. Prosser, A.A. Stinnett, L. Goldman, and M.C. Weinstein

Ultrasonography in Management of Nodular Thyroid Disease 383

M.C. Leinung, A. Gianoukakis, and D.W. Lee; J.L. Gross; E. Marqusee, P.R. Larsen, and S.J. Mandel

Doxepin-Induced Torsade de Pointes Tachycardia 384

P. Alter, D. Tontsch, and W. Grimm

MEDICAL WRITINGS

To Change or Not To Change: "Sounds Like You Have a Dilemma" 386

W. Levinson, M.S. Cohen, D. Brady, and F.D. Duffy

One of a physician's most important tasks is to help patients change unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, hazardous alcohol use, overeating, or physical inactivity. The authors explain a clinically useful model for counseling and provide sample words and phrases to illustrate how physicians can influence change.

Book Notes 392

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Subscription Information I-3

Information for Authors I-4

Authors' Form I-8