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Annals of Internal Medicine

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- Muscle Infarction in Sickle Cell Anemia
- Oral Quinolone Treatment for Osteomyelitis
- Quinolone Prophylaxis during Neutropenia
- Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism
- The Cardiac Conduction System in Unexplained Sudden Death

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Articles

Increasing the Dietary Potassium Intake Reduces the Need for Antihypertensive Medication 753
A. Siani, P. Strazzullo, A. Giacco, D. Pacioni, E. Celentano, and M. Mancini

Increasing the dietary potassium intake from natural foods is a feasible and effective measure to reduce antihypertensive drug treatment. By the end of the study, blood pressure could be controlled using less than 50% of the initial therapy in 81% of the patients who increased their potassium intake compared with 29% of the controls.

Treatment for Cerebral Toxoplasmosis Protects against *Pneumocystis carinii* Pneumonia in Patients with AIDS 760
A. Heald, M. Flepp, J-P Chave, R. Malinverni, S. Rüttimann, V. Gabriel, C. RénoId, A. Sugar, B. Hirschel, and the Swiss HIV Cohort Study

Patients with cerebral toxoplasmosis have a low risk for subsequently developing *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia. This decreased risk is probably the result of chronic suppressive treatment with pyrimethamine and sulfonamides.

Heterosexual Co-transmission of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) 764
M.E. Eyster, H.J. Alter, L.M. Aledort, S. Quan, A. Hatzakis, and J.J. Goedert

The higher prevalence of HCV in female sexual partners of men with hemophilia than in blood donor and other low-risk groups suggests that there is a low level of sexual transmission. Male to female sexual transmission of HCV is less efficient than that of HIV. The frequency of HCV transmission to female sexual partners is five times higher when HIV is also transmitted to the partner, suggesting that HIV may be a cofactor for the sexual transmission of HCV.

Reversible Renal Failure Associated with Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors in Polycystic Kidney Disease 769
A.B. Chapman, P.A. Gabow, and R.W. Schrier

The authors describe eight episodes of reversible acute renal deterioration in five patients with autosomal-dominant polycystic kidney disease, massive renal involvement, and chronic renal insufficiency. In all cases, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors either predisposed the patient to or precipitated the acute event.

Screening for Alcohol Abuse Using CAGE Scores and Likelihood Ratios 774
D.G. Buchsbaum, R.G. Buchanan, R.M. Centor, S.H. Schnoll, and M.J. Lawton

Clinicians can improve their ability to estimate a patient's risk for an alcohol abuse or dependence disorder using likelihood ratios for CAGE scores (an acronym for the four questions asked in the CAGE test; Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-opener).

Thoracoscopic Talc Poudrage Pleurodesis for Chronic Recurrent Pleural Effusions 778
Y. Aelony, R. King, and C. Boutin

Thoracoscopic talc poudrage is an effective pleural sclerosing technique and is relatively painless.

Brief Reports

Combined Endoscopic Sphincterotomy and Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy in Patients with Choledocholithiasis and Cholecystolithiasis 783
G. Aliperti, S.A. Edmundowicz, N.J. Soper, and S.W. Ashley

Endoscopic sphincterotomy combined with laparoscopic cholecystectomy is effective in the treatment of patients with simultaneous gallbladder and bile duct stones. Length of hospital stay and degree of postoperative disability were significantly reduced among our patients compared with those having standard cholecystectomy and bile duct exploration.

Recovery of Adrenal Function after Failure Resulting from Traumatic Bilateral Adrenal Hemorrhages 785
B. Feuerstein and D.H.P. Streeten

A 32-year-old psychotic man had severe pelvic and femoral injuries and hypotension associated with adrenal insufficiency caused by bilateral adrenal hemorrhages. Adrenocorticotropic hormone administration was found to cause normal increases in plasma cortisol concentrations at 10 and 30 months after the initial trauma.

(Continued on page I-5)

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Reviews

- Risk for Serious Gastrointestinal Complications Related to Use of Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs. A Meta-analysis 787
S.E. Gabriel, L. Jaakkimainen, and C. Bombardier

Users of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are at approximately three times greater relative risk for developing serious adverse gastrointestinal events than are nonusers. Additional risk factors include age greater than 60 years, previous history of gastrointestinal events, and concomitant corticosteroid use. These data represent summary statistics from 16 studies and cannot be considered generalizable to all NSAID users.

- Cocaine-induced Myocardial Infarction in Patients with Normal Coronary Arteries 797
R.L. Minor, Jr, B.D. Scott, D.D. Brown, and M.D. Winniford

Cocaine-induced myocardial infarction in patients with normal coronary arteries appears to involve adrenergically mediated increases in myocardial oxygen consumption, vasoconstriction of large epicardial arteries or small coronary resistance vessels, and coronary thrombosis.

Medicine and Public Issues

- Cost Effectiveness of Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Elderly 807
J.L. Wagner, R.C. Herdman, and S. Wadhwa

Although colorectal cancer screening is costly, its potential medical benefits make it a reasonably cost-effective preventive intervention for the elderly. A program of annual fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) in the elderly would detect at least 17% of the expected cases of cancer and could cost \$35 000 per year of life saved.

Perspective

- How Should Results from Completed Studies Influence Ongoing Clinical Trials? The CAFA Study Experience 818
A. Laupacis, S.J. Connolly, M. Gent, R.S. Roberts, J. Cairns, and C. Joyner, for the CAFA Study Group

Seven randomized studies during the past 5 years have evaluated or are evaluating the efficacy of warfarin or aspirin or both in decreasing the risk of embolic events in patients with nonrheumatic atrial fibrillation. By March 1990, two of the studies had been published. The Steering Committee of the Canadian Atrial Fibrillation Anticoagulation (CAFA) study decided that the evidence of benefit with warfarin, from the two published studies, was sufficiently compelling to stop recruitment into CAFA without any preliminary examination of the CAFA data.

On Being a Doctor

- A Job Well Done? 823
J.R. Curtis

This story chronicles a resident's growth through interactions with a person with AIDS. It concentrates on the resident's gradual realization that a physician's job may be well done despite a patient's death.

Editorials

- Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis: Challenges to Traditional Paradigms 825
T. Pincus and F. Wolfe

Based on a long-term observational study rather than a randomized controlled trial, Epstein and colleagues, in the 15 March 1991 issue of *Annals*, challenged the current views about rheumatoid arthritis therapy. One of their conclusions was that gold is of no value. Possible benefits of gold may have been obscured by methodologic problems; these include the timing of data acquisition, use of other second-line therapies in control patients not receiving gold, and analyses of patients as a group rather than as individuals.

-
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection in Women 827
M.R. Spence and A.C. Reboli

Large multidisciplinary, longitudinal studies of women infected with human immunodeficiency virus must be done because women now represent a major group of patients with AIDS.

Letters

- Myonecrosis and Myofibrosis in Sickle Cell Anemia 830
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- Muscle Infarction in Sickle Cell Anemia 831
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Information for Authors (Short Form*)

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CONTENT

The editorial emphasis is on reports of original clinical research, reviews, and commentaries pertinent to internal medicine.

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