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ARTICLES

Appropriateness Criteria for Coronary Angiography in Angina: Reliability and Validity 221

H. Hemingway, R. Chen, C. Junghans, A. Timmis, S. Eldridge, N. Black, P. Shekelle, and G. Feder

Can patient-specific appropriateness criteria developed by experts identify which patients with suspected angina should undergo coronary angiography? In Hemingway and colleagues' study, expert panels scored hundreds of patient-specific scenarios as inappropriate, uncertain, or appropriate indications for coronary angiography. Researchers matched these appropriateness indications to 9356 clinic patients with recent-onset chest pain. Many patients judged as appropriate candidates did not undergo angiography and more had subsequent coronary events than did patients who "appropriately" had angiography.

Prognosis after West Nile Virus Infection 232

M. Loeb, S. Hanna, L. Nicolle, J. Eyles, S. Elliott, M. Rathbone, M. Drebot, B. Neupane, M. Fearon, and J. Mahony

In this longitudinal study, Loeb and associates examined the patterns of physical and mental function after infection with West Nile virus and determined factors associated with recovery. Among 156 patients with West Nile virus infection in 4 Canadian provinces, physical and cognitive function, as well as mood and fatigue, seemed to return to population norms within about 1 year.

Summary for Patients I-34

Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Concentrations and Risk for Hip Fractures 242

J.A. Cauley, A.Z. LaCroix, L. Wu, M. Horwitz, M.E. Danielson, D.C. Bauer, J.S. Lee, R.D. Jackson, J.A. Robbins, C. Wu, F.Z. Stanczyk, M.S. LeBoff, J. Wactawski-Wende, G. Sarto, J. Ockene, and S.R. Cummings

Vitamin D supplementation may help prevent fractures, but it is not clear whether blood vitamin D concentrations predict fracture risk. In Cauley and colleagues' case-control study, women with lower serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations had a higher hip fracture risk. The association was independent of frailty, body mass index, physical function, and falls.

Summary for Patients I-42

The ADVANTAGE Seeding Trial: A Review of Internal Documents 251

K.P. Hill, J.S. Ross, D.S. Egilman, and H.M. Krumholz

The public has lacked strong documentary evidence of a long-suspected practice: drug company sponsorship of randomized trials to promote a new drug by getting physicians accustomed to using it while following the trial protocol (seeding trials). Hill and coworkers obtained court-ordered documents that showed that Merck & Co.'s marketing division conducted the ADVANTAGE (Assessment of Differences between Vioxx and Naproxen To Ascertain Gastrointestinal Tolerability and Effectiveness) randomized trial to promote the use of Vioxx (rofecoxib)—the drug prescribed to the trial participants. The company did not tell institutional review boards, physicians, or patients the true purpose of the trial.

REVIEW

Narrative Review: Furosemide for Hypercalcemia: An Unproven yet Common Practice 259

S.B. LeGrand, D. Leskuski, and I. Zama

First-line therapy with saline and furosemide continues to be the standard of care for acute management of hypercalcemia. LeGrand and colleagues sought evidence on this practice and found none that supported the common practice of using furosemide for hypercalcemia of any cause.

ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

Navigating Language Barriers under Difficult Circumstances 264

Y. Schenker, B. Lo, K.M. Ettinger, and A. Fernandez

Physicians often find themselves caring for patients with limited English proficiency in settings with limited language services. Schenker and associates describe 4 factors that should inform the decision to call an interpreter (the clinical situation, degree of language gap, available interpretive resources, and patient preference), discuss who may be an appropriate interpreter, and offer coping strategies for when a professional interpreter is not available.

PERSPECTIVE

Hereditary Hemochromatosis: Time for Targeted Screening 270

P.D. Phatak, H.L. Bonkovsky, and K.V. Kowdley

Hereditary hemochromatosis, an inherited disease characterized by excessive absorption of dietary iron, may lead to progressive tissue iron accumulation, organ damage,

Continued on page I-6

and premature death. Some evidence-based guideline groups have recommended against screening asymptomatic individuals for hereditary hemochromatosis. Phatak and colleagues discuss hereditary hemochromatosis as a cause of preventable organ dysfunction and propose targeted case finding for Caucasian men of Northern European ancestry.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Nomogram Epidemic: Resurgence of a Medical Relic 273

D.A. Grimes

Popular in medicine from about 1925 to 1975, a nomogram is a graphical means for solving an equation by placing a straightedge across several scales. Today, most reported nomograms are inconsistent with established definitions and clinical use. Grimes discusses nomograms, reviews their history as crude calculators, documents the current epidemic, gives examples of good and bad medical nomograms, and recommends a better approach to contemporary medical calculations.

EDITORIALS

Assessing Appropriateness of Coronary Angiography: Another Step in Improving Quality 276

D.P. Faxon

In this issue, Hemingway and associates assessed the reliability and validity of patient-specific appropriateness criteria for coronary angiography in patients with suspected stable angina pectoris. The study provides valuable new insights into the validity and potential application of appropriateness ratings.

Seeding Trials: Just Say “No” 279

H.C. Sox and D. Rennie

A seeding trial is marketing in the guise of science. In 2003, *Annals* published a seeding trial sponsored by Merck & Co. No one told *Annals* the true purpose of the trial until the Editor received a letter from a consultant who was involved in the civil suits against Merck and had access to publicly accessible trial documents that disclosed the trial's true intent. These documents are the focus of Hill and colleagues' article in this issue about seeding trials.

ON BEING A DOCTOR

The Death of a Clinician-Educator 281

K.D. Manning

My colleague-speaker-friend recently announced that he was leaving our division for an in-town private practice job. He

would be the third person that month to make such an announcement. I knew he wasn't dying, but it was a death of sorts. In my heart, I knew it was the death of another clinician-educator.

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ACP Journal Club

The Best New Evidence for Patient Care

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