

CONTENTS *Annals of Internal Medicine*

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ARTICLES

Treatment with Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Is Not Effective in Patients with Sleep Apnea but No Daytime Sleepiness. A Randomized, Controlled Trial

F. Barbé, L.R. Mayoralas, J. Duran, J.F. Masa, A. Maimó, J.M. Montserrat, C. Monasterio, M. Bosch, A. Ladaría, M. Rubio, R. Rubio, M. Medinas, L. Hernandez, S. Vidal, N.J. Douglas, and A.G.N. Agustí

In patients with an apnea-hypopnea index of 30 or greater and no subjective daytime sleepiness, continuous positive airway pressure did not modify quality of life, objective sleepiness, vigilance, attention, memory, information processing, visuomotor coordination, or arterial blood pressure.

Home Monitoring Service Improves Mean Arterial Pressure in Patients with Essential Hypertension. A Randomized, Controlled Trial

M.A.M. Rogers, D. Small, D.A. Buchan, C.A. Butch, C.M. Stewart, B.E. Krenzer, and H.L. Husovsky

Use of a telecommunication service that consisted of automatic transmission of blood pressure data over telephone lines and weekly electronic transmission of reports to physicians reduced the mean arterial pressure of patients with established essential hypertension.

Long-Term Outcome of Anti-Glomerular Basement Membrane Antibody Disease Treated with Plasma Exchange and Immunosuppression

J.B. Levy, A.N. Turner, A.J. Rees, and C.D. Pusey

Patients with the Goodpasture syndrome (anti-glomerular basement membrane antibody disease with pulmonary hemorrhage) and severe renal failure should be considered for urgent immunosuppressive therapy, including plasma exchange, to maximize the chance of renal recovery. Patients in need of immediate dialysis are less likely to recover.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

The Incidence of Unrecognized Myocardial Infarction in Women with Coronary Heart Disease

M.G. Shlipak, D.A. Elmouchi, D.M. Herrington, F. Lin, D. Grady, and M.A. Hlatky, for the Heart and Estrogen/progestin Replacement Study Research Group

In this study, the incidence of unrecognized myocardial infarction in women with known coronary disease was much lower than that noted in previous studies of populations without established coronary heart disease.

REVIEW

Diagnosis and Care of Patients with Anorexia Nervosa in Primary Care Settings

P.S. Mehler

In addition to diagnosing anorexia nervosa and treating the multiple medical complications associated with this disorder, the primary care physician plays a central role in maintaining continuity of care throughout a variety of treatment settings.

PERSPECTIVE

Pharmaceutical Price Controls and Patient Welfare

J.E. Calfee

Pharmaceutical price controls offer short-term gains for a small proportion of patients at the cost of curtailing research that promises to bring far better therapies in the future. The notion that controls could provide reasonable incentives for future research has no foundation.

EDITORIALS

Who Should Get Treated for Sleep Apnea?

A.I. Pack and G. Maislin

Barbé and colleagues' findings on the efficacy of continuous positive airway pressure in patients with sleep apnea but no daytime sleepiness, reported in this issue, raise three important issues. First, why are some patients with high levels of respiratory disturbance during sleep not excessively sleepy? Second, what are the reasons for treating patients with obstructive sleep apnea? And finally, how can we identify patients with obstructive sleep apnea who will benefit from treatment?

The Heartbreak of Drug Pricing

F. Davidoff

It can hardly be a mystery why the price of prescription drugs in the United States has become such a contentious issue. What does the evidence tell us about the actual cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs and the need for the current outlays for drug development?

A New Editor for *Annals of Internal Medicine*—2001

E.B. Larson

The 3 July 2001 issue of *Annals* will witness a changing of the guard. Frank Davidoff will exit gracefully after six and a half years as the highly capable, widely respected editor, passing the torch to a new editor, Harold Sox.

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PERSONAE

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ON BEING A DOCTOR

Doctor on D-Day 1075

C. Matuchansky

Jacques Rethel was a country doctor in a village located in the Manche area of Normandy. This wasn't the first time he'd been requisitioned by the Germans at a moment's notice to attend to their soldiers—usually high-ranking officers.

LETTERS

Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibition and Renal Function 1077

A.K. Pfister, R.J. Crisalli, and W.H. Carter; A. Whelton;
S.K. Swan and D.C. Brater

MEDICAL WRITINGS

“Tell Me about Yourself”: The Patient-Centered Interview 1079

F.W. Platt, D.L. Gaspar, J.L. Coulehan, L. Fox, A.J. Adler,
W.W. Weston, R.C. Smith, and M. Stewart

To center the medical interview on the patient as well as the disease, the physician must offer both nonverbal and verbal evidence that what the patient has to say is important. In the end, the two most useful physician qualities may be curiosity and patience—curiosity to ask questions such as “Tell me about yourself,” and patience to wait for the answer.

Book Notes 1086

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