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*New Trends***New Trends in the Management of Inpatients in U.S. Hospitals – Quality Measurements and Evidence-based Medicine in Practice**

Izakovic M 117

Pay-for-performance programs have the potential to improve the quality of health care and save lives. In this article the author summarizes data from the Premier/CMS Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration Project conducted in the U.S. Data from this project demonstrated significant improvement in the quality of care. The author suggests that accepting similar initiatives and implementing such quality improvement processes in Slovak hospitals can have a significant impact on the reform of health care in Slovakia.

*Clinical Studies***The Association between Serum Leptin and Blood Lymphocytes in Hemodialysis Patients**

Nasri H 122

A significant positive correlation between serum leptin and body-mass index and between serum leptin and lymphocyte percentage was found, as well as a significant negative correlation between serum leptin and PMN percentage. There was a weak negative correlation between WBC counts and the duration and dosage of dialysis, and also a near significant negative correlation between WBC counts and hemodialysis adequacy. There was also a significant negative correlation between WBC counts and serum albumin.

Effects of Gender Difference in Early Cytokine Levels in Trauma Patients

Ertan T, Keskek M, Kilic M, Gocmen E, Oguz H, Aksaray S, Koc M 128

This study was designed to determine whether gender based changes occur in cytokine responses after trauma-hemorrhage. These results suggest that the role of sex steroids on immunomodulatory processes following trauma-hemorrhage should be further investigated before studies are undertaken to evaluate the effect of hormonal manipulation in patients with trauma.

Molecular Analysis of SMN1 and NAIP Genes in Egyptian Patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Essawi ML, Effat LK, Shanab GML, Al-Ettribi GMM, El-Haronui AA, Karim AM 133

Twenty Egyptian SMA patients were studied for SMN1 and NAIP genes. Eighty percent of the patients had homozygous absence of SMN1 gene and 45% had deleted NAIP gene. This pilot study on the molecular basis of SMA in Egyptians shows figures comparable to those of other populations.

Serum Reg-1 α is not Suitable Marker of Metabolic Syndrome

Stejskal D, Karpisek M, Horakova D, Cizek L, Janoutova G, Janout V 138

14 non-obese, healthy subjects and 15 individuals with metabolic syndrome were studied. Anthropometric and laboratory analysis in sera were performed. Reg-1 α levels did not differ between subjects with metabolic syndrome and healthy subjects and positively correlated only with fasting glucose. Reg-1 α correlated even after adjustment to age. Reg-1 α concentrations did not differ in men and women. This study indicates that serum Reg-1 α is not useful for the diagnosis of metabolic syndrome.

Ossified Pterygospinous Ligament and its Clinical Implications

Srijit Das, Shipra Paul 141

The study describes anatomical and radiological aspects of an incomplete ossified pterygospinous ligament. The presence of

ossified pterygospinous ligament may result in the formation of a foramen, through which the branches of mandibular nerve may pass. Presence of such anomalies may compress upon the branches of the mandibular nerve and chorda tympani nerves. Increase in the width and flattening of the lateral pterygoid plate may leave little space, causing difficulty while performing surgical operations on the pterygoid region. Anomalies involving the pterygospinous ligament may not only be of academic interest but also be beneficial for maxillofacial and dental surgeons and anaesthetists.

*Review***The Effect of Head Injury Upon the Immune System**

Smrcka M, Mrlian A, Karlsson-Valik J, Klabusay M 144

In spite of guidelines based therapy the treatment is frequently unsuccessful. Extracranial infectious complications are considered to be an important problem during the course of recovery, and possibly immunological changes could explain their occurrence. Head injuries cause an imbalance within the helper cell community, resulting in a T_{H2} dominance. This development is influenced by the soluble agents of the sympathetic nervous system and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis.

*Treatment***Is local excision due to rectal carcinoma a safe operation?**

Mracna P, Repan M, Kralik R, Skultety J 149

The aim of this article is to draw attention to the complex topic of local excisions for rectal neoplasms and at the same time to analyse the review of indication criteria and evaluate the drawbacks of this operative method in our conditions.

*Case Reports***Somatosensory-Evoked Potentials and MRI in Tuberculous Spondylodiscitis**

Titlic M, Isgum V, Buca A, Kolic K, Tonkic A, Jukic I, Milas I 153

We report a 46-year-old woman suffering from non-specific interscapular pains. The evoked somatosensory potentials of the tibial nerve showed a mild slowing down of biopotential conductivity through the thoracic spine. The thoracic spine MRI showed spondylodiscitis. The course of antituberculous treatment was monitored by evoked potentials and MRI up to the final recovery.

Meig's or Pseudomeig's Syndrome?

Iavazzo C, Vorgias G, Sampanis D, Mavromatis I, Manikis P, Katsoulis M 158

The triad of ascites, hydrothorax in association with a benign ovarian tumor is defined as Meig's syndrome. It is a rare clinical entity. The pathogenesis of the pleural and ascites fluids and the importance of CA-125 are discussed.

*Health Management***Long-term Care as an Urgent Challenge**

Lezovic M, Dzungdova Z, Kovac R, Raucinovala M 161

Long-term care is a relatively closed system of health care and social care services and assistance that has developed as a response to the needs of those who due to disability, chronic health conditions, trauma or disease limiting their self-care capabilities and independence, are in need of assistance and support of third persons for a prolonged period of time.

*History of Medicine***Birth Control in Antiquity**

Bujalkova M 163

Some methods of contraception defended by Greek and Roman doctors were very effective and many pieces of information became basis for modern contraceptive means, others certainly did not achieve the desired effects.