

#### EDITORIAL

Are calcium antagonists safe?

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Recent studies have generated a storm of controversy. A member of the NIH committee on calcium-channel blockers gives his perspective.

R.W. GIFFORD, JR.

#### CURRENT DRUG THERAPY

#### DONALD G. VIDT, EDITOR

#### Methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis: when NSAIDs fail

With diligent monitoring, low-dose methotrexate is effective for treating selected patients with rheumatoid arthritis, and it is safer than previously thought.

J.A. FLYNN AND D.B. HELLMAN

#### CLINICAL REVIEW

#### Acute dissection of the aorta: options for diagnostic imaging

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Although medical therapy should be started as soon as dissection of the aorta is suspected, new imaging methods help confirm the diagnosis.

M. RAZAVI

### SYMPOSIUM: THE INTERNIST AND PERIOPERATIVE CARE

### INTRODUCTION

#### The internist as consultant

Ways internists can improve their effectiveness in evaluating patients, managing surgical complications and communicating with referring physicians.

D.L. BRONSON, A.K. HALPERIN, AND J.H. ISAACSON

#### MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

#### WILLIAM S. WILKE, EDITOR

#### Deep venous thrombosis: low-molecular-weight heparins in perioperative prophylaxis

Although low-molecular weight heparins have theoretical advantages over standard heparin in preventing DVT, the differences in outcome have not been dramatic. The important issue is to give some form of prophylactic therapy.

G. MERLI

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#### INTERNAL MEDICINE BOARD REVIEW

	DAVID	L.	LONGV	VORTH	AND	James	К.	STOLLE	ER,	Editors
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#### Postoperative confusion in a 42-year-old man

Recognizing the cause of postoperative confusion and treating the problem: a self-test

J.H. ISAACSON

## A 55-year-old man with chronic liver 372 disease and coagulation abnormalities

Assessing the effect of cirrhosis on coagulation and preventing perioperative bleeding: a self-test

C. ANDERSON

#### CLINICAL REVIEWS

#### Preoperative screening: What tests are necessary?

Ordering preoperative tests is as easy as checking a form. But what tests are worthwhile for which patients?

T. JONES AND J.H. ISAACSON

#### The preoperative bleeding time test: 379 assessing its clinical usefulness

Because of the bleeding time test's low value in predicting perioperative bleeding, it should be abandoned as a routine screening test.

A.S. GEWIRTZ, K. KOTTKE-MARCHANT, AND M.L. MILLER

### Perioperative care of the elderly patient: 383 special considerations

For the elderly, surgical risk factors such as underlying disease or the nature of the surgery are more important than age alone. A preoperative assessment can help define risk.

D.L. MILLER

# Evaluating cardiac risk in noncardiac surgery patients

The history, examination, and resting EKG are the cornerstone of cardiac risk assessment, but new techniques are available for questionable cases.

D.L. BRONSON, A. K. HALPERIN, AND T.H. MARWICK

#### Postoperative pulmonary complications: 401 risk assessment, prevention, and treatment

Preoperative pulmonary function testing is needed only in high-risk patients; proper management can decrease the risk.

S.P. HAYDEN, M.E. MAYER, AND J.K. STOLLER

#### CME CREDIT TEST

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