



CLEVELAND CLINIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE



DEDICATED TO LIFELONG LEARNING

EDITORIAL

Medical McCarthyism: Medicare, teaching hospitals, and charges of health care fraud

517

Real fraud cannot be tolerated, but spurious fraud charges are equally intolerable.

J.D. CLOUGH

INTERNAL MEDICINE BOARD REVIEW

A 52-year-old woman with skin lesions and liver function abnormalities

520

The patient presents to her doctor with a pruritic rash of 6 weeks' duration. What is the diagnosis and treatment?

H. DAW AND J. H. ISAACSON

CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING

The uncertain role of immunosuppressive agents in Sjögren's syndrome

523

Although Sjögren's syndrome is an autoimmune disorder, immunosuppressive agents have yielded disappointing results in clinical trials.

G. LINARDAKI AND H.M. MOUTSOPOULOS

CLINICAL REVIEWS

Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*: An emerging public health threat

527

Three reported cases of *S aureus* with intermediate susceptibility to vancomycin raise fears that high-level vancomycin resistance may soon be seen. Physicians need to limit their use of vancomycin, and hospitals need to intensify their infection-control efforts.

P.A. FLORES AND S.M. GORDON

Stress ulcer prophylaxis: The case for a selective approach

533

Although stress-related mucosal damage is common in critically ill patients, the risk of significant gastrointestinal bleeding appears to be confined to patients with certain risk factors. A full-color illustration explaining the pathogenesis of stress-related mucosal damage accompanies this article.

M.B. BOBEK AND A.C. ARROLIGA

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Homocysteine: Update on a new risk factor 543

A high fasting plasma homocysteine level is an independent risk factor for atherosclerosis and venous thrombosis.

R. S. BALLAL, D. W. JACOBSEN, AND K. ROBINSON

CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Stereotactic breast biopsy: A less-invasive option 550

Percutaneous core needle biopsy, guided by digital three-dimensional x-ray imaging, offers a reasonable alternative to standard surgical biopsy.

W. A. CHILCOTE AND C. A. QUINN

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The *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* is peer reviewed and indexed in *Index Medicus*.

UPCOMING FEATURES

■ Update on JNC VI: Changes in hypertension management

Highlights and commentary on the Sixth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure

■ New hope for the impaired physician

Prevention of alcohol and drug abuse is the best remedy for this difficult problem

■ Managing subclinical hyperthyroidism

An approach to the workup for this ambiguous condition

■ What internists need to know about amiodarone

As this potent antiarrhythmic drug is used more often, internists need know how to use it correctly

