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EDITORIAL

Treating populations rather than individuals: the subtle danger of managed care 120

Is managed care improving the quality of health care for populations at the expense of care for individuals?

J.D. CLOUGH

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

Disturbing asthma statistics reflect suboptimal 123 management

Beta agonists are used too often and inhaled steroids too little. Leukotrine receptor antagonists will be an important new asthma therapy, but allergy shots remain controversial.

C.M. GRUM

New treatment options for epilepsy 125

The four newest anticonvulsant drugs gabapentin, lamotrigine, felbamate, and topiramate—offer some advantages over older agents.

H.H. MORRIS III

Beyond statistics: What is really important in medicine? 127

Clinicians should apply clinical reasoning when interpreting trial results, and researchers should find better ways of measuring "soft" outcomes, such as quality of life.

A.R. FEINSTEIN

INTERPRETING KEY TRIALS

Lipid-lowering therapy for average lipid levels: The CARE trial 129

The CARE findings indicate that average LDL-cholesterol levels are too high in patients with coronary artery disease and can contribute to a reoccurrence of cardiovascular events.

D.L. SPRECHER

INTERNAL MEDICINE BOARD REVIEW

Preoperative evaluation of a woman with rheumatoid arthritis

What testing and action is needed to prepare this patient for evacuation of a hematoma?

D.G. LITAKER

Management of bite wounds and infection in primary care

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Bite wounds can be deceptive, as seemingly minor wounds can result in serious complications, such as septic arthritis.

A.T. KELLEHER AND S.M. GORDON

What's new in the treatment of hypertension

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Systolic pressure predicts risk more accurately than diastolic pressure. The current goal of 140/90 is probably not aggressive enough.

R.W. GIFFORD JR.

CASE REPORT

Negative pressure pulmonary edema: a cautionary tale

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Acute pulmonary edema due to upper respiratory obstruction (in this case an endotracheal tube obstructed by dry mucus plugs), may be underdiagnosed.

A.A. EID, M. AGABANI, AND K. GRADY

CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

From serendipity to design: the evolution of drug development in oncology

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Although the screening of natural products remains the major method of discovering new anticancer drugs, new techniques of computer-aided drug design and combinatorial synthesis will also play a role.

D.M. PEEREBOOM

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Upcoming Features

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- Strategies for managing congestive heart failure
- Preventing medication errors