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Although hereditary hemochromatosis is one of the most common genetic diseases affecting people of northern European descent, it is underdiagnosed.

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The B-type natriuretic peptide assay: A rapid test for heart failure

This 15-minute test is highly sensitive and fairly specific and is useful in evaluating suspected heart failure in outpatients and in emergency care.

W.F. PEACOCK

How to use nesiritide in treating decompensated heart failure

Nesiritide, a recombinant formulation of BNP, is the first new parenteral drug in more than a decade to be approved for treating heart failure.

R.M. MILLS AND R.E. HOBBS

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Brief answers to specific clinical questions

257 What is the best diagnostic approach when pheochromocytoma is suspected?

First prove there is catecholamine overproduction, then obtain an MRI to locate the tumor.

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What is the best way to determine if thrombocytopenia in a patient on multiple medications is drug-induced?

The only way is to stop the suspected drug and see if the thrombocytopenia resolves. But how to avoid stopping needed drugs that are not a problem?

N.S. MAJHAIL AND A.E. LICHTIN

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