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Examine before ordering: An algorithm unchanged by new tests

FROM THE EDITOR

I have always been irked when doctors reflexively order panels of immunologic tests when evaluating patients with "arthritis."

B.F. MANDELL

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to diagnose rheumatoid arthritis? This test is highly specific, though it may be redundant

for a patient who has documented rheumatoid arthritis and who is seropositive for rheumatoid factor.

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Purpuric lesion on the elbow

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A 75-year-old man developed a painful lesion on the elbow several days after starting warfarin therapy. What is the most likely diagnosis?

N.K. VOORE, A. RAHMAN, S. SANNA, AND H. BAHRAIN

THE CLINICAL PICTURE.....

Purple urine in a woman with chronic kidney disease

Although purple urine itself is usually considered benign, it should prompt an evaluation for urinary tract infection.

Y.-C. CHEN

Synthetic legal intoxicating drugs: The 'incense' and 'bath salt' phenomenon

These products are gaining in popularity among drug abusers, because they are cheap and produce a powerful high. They may not be detectable on standard urine drug screening.

REVIEW

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Factor V Leiden: How great is the risk of venous thromboembolism?

The risk of a first episode of thromboembolism is two to five times higher with the heterozygous factor V Leiden mutation, but the absolute risk is still low.

K. SHAHEEN, M.C. ALRAIES, A.H. ALRAIYES, AND R. CHRISTIE

REVIEW

Antireflux surgery in the proton pump inhibitor era

Although drug therapy with a proton pump inhibitor is the first-line treatment for gastroesophageal reflux disease, surgery still has several specific indications.

W.J. BULSIEWICZ AND R.D. MADANICK

THE CLINICAL PICTURE.....

A nodule on a woman's face

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It is firm, pink, 10 mm in diameter, with surrounding telangiectasias. What is it?

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Nonallergic rhinitis: Common problem, chronic symptoms

Allergic and nonallergic rhinitis have similar symptoms, but their mechanisms and treatment differ.

B. SCHROER AND L.C. PIEN

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Readers comment on previous articles about glucocorticoid-induced diabetes and adrenal failure (November 2011), essential tremor (December 2011), and Parkinson disease (January 2012).

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