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- Internists are often confronted with nonspecific exanthems. Generally, these are benign and self-limiting, but they can signal more systemic disease. This thorough review covers several toxic conditions that should be considered by physicians when evaluating patients with exanthems.*
- 304 **Does Chronic Microaspiration Cause Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis?**
Joyce S. Lee, Harold R. Collard, Ganesh Raghu, Matthew P. Sweet, Steven R. Hays, Guilherme M. Campos, Jeffrey A. Golden, and Talmadge E. King, Jr.
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a progressive and frequently fatal fibrotic lung disease of unknown cause. There is a strong association between abnormal gastroesophageal reflux—a presumed risk factor for microaspiration—and IPF.*

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- 322 **Long-acting Beta-Agonists with and without Inhaled Corticosteroids and Catastrophic Asthma Events**
Shelley R. Salpeter, Andrew J. Wall, and Nicholas S. Buckley
- There is a 3-fold increase in asthma-related intubations and deaths in those taking long-acting beta-agonists with concomitant corticosteroids compared to corticosteroids alone, according to this meta-analysis.*



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329 Optimization of Clinical Breast Examination

William H. Goodson III, Thomas K. Hunt, Julia N. Plotnik, and Dan H. Moore II

Breast examination skills are necessary for the detection and evaluation of cancers that are missed by mammograms. This study revealed that a simple form to focus physician attention improved breast examination quality and doubled the percentage of examinations that led to further evaluation.

335 Does Vitamin D Modulate Asymmetric Dimethylarginine and C-Reactive Protein Concentrations?

Doan T. Ngo, Aaron L. Sverdlov, John J. McNeil, and John D. Horowitz

Increasingly, vitamin D has been shown to have cardioprotective effects, but the mechanisms underlying this are uncertain. In this study, low vitamin D levels were associated with markers of endothelial dysfunction and inflammatory activation.

342 Low Blood Pressure and Depressive Symptoms among Chinese Older Subjects: A Population-based Study

Tze-Pin Ng, Liang Feng, Mathew Niti, and Keng-Bee Yap

The literature contains conflicting findings regarding the relationship between blood pressure and depressive symptoms. This population study in older Chinese revealed that low blood pressure was independently associated with depressive symptoms in people who had been treated for hypertension and those who had not.

350 Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke Risk in Patients with Psoriasis: Retrospective Analysis

Alexa Boer Kimball, Annie Guerin, Dominick Latremouille-Viau, Andrew P. Yu, Shiraz Gupta, Yanjun Bao, and Parvez Mulani

Patients with moderate to severe psoriasis have significantly greater risks of developing coronary heart disease and stroke compared with the general population. Psoriasis patients may be underdiagnosed and undertreated; consequently, physicians should be aware of this and counsel these patients regarding their increased risks.

358 Systematic Review of the Symptom Burden, Quality of Life Impairment and Costs Associated with Peptic Ulcer Disease

Alan Barkun and Grigorios Leontiadis

Most patients with peptic ulcer disease have abdominal pain. As a result, peptic ulcer disease impairs well-being and aspects of health-related quality of life. In addition, peptic ulcer disease is associated with high costs for employers and healthcare systems.

367 Gabapentin Toxicity in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Preventable Cause of Morbidity

Ladan Zand, Kevin P. McKian, and Qi Qian

Gabapentin toxicity in patients with chronic kidney disease is underrecognized. Patients with chronic kidney disease often receive an inappropriately high gabapentin dosage for their kidney function, occasionally resulting in toxicity. Heightened awareness amongst physicians could increase cost-effectiveness and improve quality of care.



AJM ONLINE

Please note that articles with an “e” page designation are available only in the online version of the Journal at www.amjmed.com.

REVIEWS

374.e1 The Relationship between Retinal Microvascular Abnormalities and Coronary Heart Disease: A Review

Benjamin R. McClintic, Jedediah I. McClintic, John D. Bisognano, and Robert C. Block

Although there are several identified risk factors for coronary heart disease, such as hypertension, age, cigarette smoking, and diabetes, researchers continue to look for other ways to identify at-risk patients. This review examines the current literature related to retinal microvascular changes and coronary heart disease.

374.e9 Type 2 Diabetes: Assessing the Relative Risks and Benefits of Glucose-lowering Medications

Richard M. Bergenstal, Clifford J. Bailey, and David M. Kendall

In treating type 2 diabetes, physicians must weigh the benefits of improved glycemic control with the inherent risks of glucose-monitoring medications. This thorough review is intended to assist in clinical decision-making.

CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

375.e1 Racial Differences in Atrial Fibrillation Prevalence and Left Atrial Size

Gregory M. Marcus, Jeffrey E. Olgin, Mary Whooley, Eric Vittinghoff, Katie L. Stone, Reena Mehra, Stephen B. Hulley, and Nelson B. Schiller

Despite exhibiting common risk factors for atrial fibrillation, African Americans have substantially less atrial fibrillation than other races. This may be related to a smaller left atrial diameter.

CLINICAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EDITOR

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