

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

Rural Healthcare *Quality* Network

## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* A macrolide (azithromycin) is frequently prescribed for CAP (Community Acquired Pneumonia). What alternative medication is recommended in the healthy adult who has not received antibiotics in the previous 3 months?

*Answer:* Doxycycline

*Source:* J. Emergency Medicine. July 2006.



### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* Is outpatient management of DVT with LMWH an acceptable treatment option?

*Answer:* Yes. Outpatient treatment in selected patients is safe and cost effective.

*Source:* Cochrane Database 2007.

### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* What is the recommended volume of blood to be collected for blood cultures?

*Answer:* 10cc

*Source:* Mayo Clinic Proceedings, Sept. 2007. Page 1069

### Medication Management

*Question:* What medication has been shown to reduce the time for passage of ureteral stones lodged at the bladder wall?

*Answer:* Flomax (tamsulosin), an alpha 1 blocker. One tablet, 0.4mg daily.

*Source:* Journal of Urology 2005; 174 (1): 167:172

### Risk Management:

*Question:* Why should most syncope patients, including the young, have an ECG

*Answer:* To detect the presence of long QT Syndrome (QTc greater than 0.44 sec.) or Brugada syndrome, RBBB with ST segment elevation in right precordial leads.

*Source:* American Journal EM 7/07, page 688.

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* What is an accurate method to identify pseudo-seizures (psychogenic)?

*Answer:* Patients will nearly always close their eyes when demonstrating this behavior. True seizures are associated with eye opening during seizure activity.

*Source:* Neurology 2006; 66: 1730

## Practice Pearl:

*Question:* Is MRI superior to CT for detection of stroke?

*Answer:* If available, MRI may be the first line diagnostic test in patients with acute stroke. MRI has an 83% sensitivity for the diagnosis of all types of acute stroke vs. 26% for CT.

*Source:* Lancet. Jan. 26, 2008

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