

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



Medical Literature Review

Infectious Disease

Question: What is the recommended antibiotic treatment for an initial episode of *C. difficile* diarrhea??

Answer: Metronidazole, 500 mg TID for 10-14 days for mild to moderate disease or vancomycin, 125 mg orally QID (also 10-14 days) for severe infection or intolerance to metronidazole.

Source: *Tintinalli Textbook of EM 2008 Edition*

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: Which antisecretory drugs are most effective in managing the symptoms associated with GERD?

Answer: PPIs (proton pump inhibitors) are more effective than H2RAs (histamine 2 receptor antagonists). PPIs are recommended long-term for erosive esophagitis.

Source: *Gastroenterology*. October 2008

Medication Management

Question: Which two groups of patients are most likely to sustain quinalone associated rupture of the Achilles tendon?

Answer: Elderly patients and those taking corticosteroids..

Source: *New England Journal of Medicine* Nov. 15 2007 pg 2867

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: What is the estimated rate of MRSA colonization among ED healthcare personnel?



Answer: Two recent studies identify the prevalence of MRSA carriage among ED health care personnel to range from 4-15%..

Source: *Ann. of Emergency Med.* Dec. 2008; pg 534

Nursing Focused Care

Question: Does failure to recognize child abuse often occur in the ED setting?

Answer: Yes. As many as one-third of physically abused children have had previous ED visits for trauma evaluation without consideration of abuse.

Source: *American College of Emergency Medicine Scientific Assembly Abstract 113*

Risk Management:

Question: Is the identification of agonal breathing just prior to initiation of resuscitation a valuable predictor of survival to hospital discharge?

Answer: Yes. "Gaspers" vs. "non-gaspers" were five-times more likely to survive to hospital discharge for resuscitation from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

Source: *Circulation*. Nov 24, 2008

Practice Pearl:

Question: What are the two pharmacologic differences between low molecular weight heparin (Enoxaparin) and fondaparinux (Arixtra)?

Answer: Enoxaparin has a half-life of 4-7 hours whereas the half-life of fondaparinux is 16-20 hours. A longer half life increases the potential risk of bleeding complications. Also, there is no reversal agent for fondaparinux whereas protamine reverses the anticoagulation effect of Enoxaparin.

Source: *Scientific Assembly American College of Chest Physicians, 2008*