

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

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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.

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

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: What is an accurate method to identify pseudoseizures (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

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

Risk Management:

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

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.

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