

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

Rural Healthcare *Quality* Network

## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* Why are cat bites of the hands (the most common site) potentially very serious injuries?

*Answer:* Tenosynovitis, septic arthritis and osteomyelitis (often with *Pasturella multocida*) are common due to the superficial anatomic location of these structures.

*Source:* *e Medicine from Web MD.*

### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* Episodes of febrile neutropenia occur in patients receiving chemotherapy. When does the neutrophil nadir usually occur after the last dose(s) of chemo?

*Answer:* Typically 5-10 days after last dose.

*Source:* Mayo Clinic Proceedings, Vol. 81, p 843

### Medication Management

*Question:* What is the life span of the platelet?

*Answer:* Approximately 10 days. This is why aspirin affects platelet function for at least one week following discontinuation..

*Source:* EMed Home. June 1, 2008

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* Does the use of tap water for the irrigation of acute wounds increase the rate of infection?

*Answer:* No. Tap water is an acceptable substitute for sterile saline for the cleansing of acute wounds.

*Source:* *Cochrane Database System Rev. 2008*



### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* Does point-of-care testing (POCT) for treponin improve the time of initiation of anti-ischemic therapy for suspected non-STEMI acute coronary syndrome?

*Answer:* Yes. Time to anti-ischemic treatment was reduced by 45 minutes in non-STEMI patients who had bedside treponin measurement.

*Source:* *Acad Emerg Med 2008; 15(3):216-24*

### Risk Management:

*Question:* A TIA is often a warning sign of impending stroke. What % of patients with a TIA are likely to have a stroke in the next 48 hours?

*Answer:* Approximately 5%. Expedient evaluation and management are key to reduction of subsequent stroke. Minimum early management would include ECG, CT (MRI preferred), carotid artery evaluation and anti-platelet therapy.

*Source:* *Ann Emerg. Med 2008; 51(3): 316-23.*

## Practice Pearl:

*Question:* Cardiac treponins are highly sensitive and specific biochemical markers. However, myocardial infarction is not the only cause for elevation. What other clinical situations may cause an elevation of treponin?

*Answer:* Sepsis, pulmonary embolism, rapid tachycardia, and myo-pericarditis may also elevate serum cardiac treponin.

*Source:* Resident and Staff Physician, April 2008 Vol 54 no. 4.