

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* What is the most commonly identified cause of pneumonia in HIV infected patients?

*Answer:* Streptococcus pneumoniae, not an opportunistic pathogen.

*Source:* Ann of Emerg Med, Sept. 2008, pg. 274

### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* Children of what age group should receive vaccination for influenza?

*Answer:* The CDC now recommends immunization for children 6 months through 18 years. Infants less than 6 months of age, due to their immature immune response are not immunized.

*Source:* CDC

### Medication Management

*Question:* Epidural steroid injection may benefit patients with a herniated disc associated with radicular pain. What is the role of this treatment in the absence of radicular pain?

*Answer:* None.

*Source:* JAMA; 299:2066

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* What non-invasive diagnostic procedure facilitates the diagnosis of soft tissue abscess?

*Answer:* Bedside ultrasound identifies the



size and location of purulent loculations allowing for treatment by aspiration or surgical drainage.

*Source:* Consensus opinion.

### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* What three actions can reduce the likelihood of post-LP headache?

*Answer:* Using a small-gauge needle, insertion of the stylet prior to needle removal and MOBILIZATION of patients after the procedure, not rest.

*Source:* JAMA 2006; 296:2012.

### Risk Management:

*Question:* What is the most common clinical finding in patients with cauda equina syndrome?

*Answer:* Urinary retention. The absence of this finding makes this diagnosis highly unlikely.

*Source:* Ann. Int. Med. 2007; 147:478.

## Practice Pearl:

*Question:* Why is fibrinolytic therapy effective in ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), but not with non-ST elevation myocardial infarction?

*Answer:* A large thrombus causing complete coronary occlusion is composed of fibrin and platelets whereas the obstruction associated with a non-STEMI is a platelet thrombus only and is not responsive to fibrinolysis.

*Source:* Am. J. Em. Feb, 2008

