

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

Rural Healthcare *Quality* Network

## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* What percentage of US health-care workers regularly receive the influenza vaccine?

*Answer:* The CDC reports a 42% vaccination rate. Dr. Julie Geberding, CDC Director, states that this low rate is "unconscionable." JCAHO now requires healthcare facilities to have effective influenza immunization programs.

*Source:* CDC

### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* A patient with gallstones develops biliary colic. What is the likelihood that this individual will subsequently develop cholecystitis?

*Answer:* Acute cholecystitis will ultimately develop in 20% of these patients.

*Source:* NEJM, 2008; 358:2804

### Medication Management

*Question:* Why does fibrinolytic therapy for acute STEMI provide no significant clinical benefit after 12 hours?

*Answer:* Thrombus organization has occurred after 12 hours and the clot is unresponsive to fibrinolysis.

*Source:* NEJM, October 18, 2007

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* What is the current empiric antibiotic regimen recommended for bacterial meningitis?



*Answer:* Ceftriaxone and vancomycin are recommended as some pneumococci are exhibiting beta lactamase resistance.

*Source:* Annals of EM, July 2006, pg. 39.

### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* A patient presents to the ED with an acute coronary syndrome. He reports severe aspirin allergy. What medication is used as an aspirin substitute?

*Answer:* Clopidogrel (Plavix), 300 mg in the ED.

*Source:* Annals of EM, May 2008..

### Risk Management:

*Question:* How long should children with croup be observed in the Emergency Department after treatment with nebulized epinephrine?

*Answer:* At least two hours of ED observation should be initiated following nebulized epinephrine treatment.

*Source:* NEJM Jan 24, 2008; pg 389

## Practice Pearl:

*Question:* Traditionally a TIA has been defined as a discrete neurological deficit lasting less than 24 hours. What percentage of these patients when examined with diffusion weighted MRI demonstrate infarction?

*Answer:* More than 50% of these patients have actually experienced a true CVA.

*Source:* EMed Home. Clinical Pearls. Sept 27, 2006