

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

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Medical Literature Review

Infectious Disease

Question: How much crystalloid is typically required in the first 24-hours in the management of septic shock?

Answer: Up to 10 liters may be necessary for successful resuscitation.

Source: *J. of Emergency Medicine. Vol. 31. p 188*

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: A patient has been diagnosed with acute bronchitis. How long does cough generally persist with this condition?

Answer: Generally cough resolves within 10-20 days. However, occasionally the cough will persist for four or more weeks. Additional antibiotics are generally not appropriate.

Source: *NEJM. Nov. 16, 2006; pg. 2125*

Medication Management

Question: Coumadin is generally stopped five days before a surgical procedure. Patients at high risk for thromboembolism (mechanical heart valve, AF) may require "bridging" therapy prior to surgery. What drug is recommended following cessation of coumadin?

Answer: Subcutaneous LMWH.

Source: *American College of Chest Physicians. June 2008*

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: What percentage of strokes are preceded by a TIA?

Answer: Up to 25% of CVAs follow a TIA.



Thus, a TIA warrants urgent diagnostic evaluation.

Source: *Ann. of Emergency Med. In press. Nov 2008*

Nursing Focused Care

Question: By what route should epinephrine be administered for the treatment of anaphylaxis?

Answer: Intramuscular. Peak plasma levels are achieved four times faster with IM administration than with subcutaneous.

Source: *J. of Allergy and Immunology. 1998; 101:33-37*

Risk Management:

Question: What is the significance of the finding of thrombocytopenia in the patient with severe sepsis?

Answer: Thrombocytopenia frequently heralds the onset of the DIC and is an independent predictor of multiple organ failure and poor outcome.

Source: *Ann. of Emergency Medicine. Vol. 48 p.54*

Practice Pearl:

Question: In the patient with acute appendicitis, what is the most common reason for a false negative CT diagnosis?

Answer: The thin patient with a paucity of intra-abdominal adipose tissue will have less "natural contrast" that serves to outline subtle inflammation.

Source: *Emergency Radiology. 2007;14:289-295*