

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter

Rural Healthcare *Quality* Network

## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* What is the recommended antibiotic treatment for an initial episode of C. difficile diarrhea??

*Answer:* Metronidazole, 500 mg TID for 10-14 days for mild to moderate disease or vancomycin, 125 mg orally QID (also 10-14 days) for severe infection or intolerance to metronidazole.

*Source:* Tintinalli Textbook of EM 2008 Edition

### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* Which antisecretory drugs are most effective in managing the symptoms associated with GERD?

*Answer:* PPIs (proton pump inhibitors) are more effective than H2RAs (histamine 2 receptor antagonists). PPIs are recommended long-term for erosive esophagitis.

*Source:* Gastroenterology. October 2008

### Medication Management

*Question:* Which two groups of patients are most likely to sustain quinalone associated rupture of the Achilles tendon?

*Answer:* Elderly patients and those taking corticosteroids..

*Source:* New England Journal of Medicine Nov. 15 2007 pg 2867

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* What is the estimated rate of MRSA colonization among ED healthcare personnel?



*Answer:* Two recent studies identify the prevalence of MRSA carriage among ED health care personnel to range from 4-15%..

*Source:* Ann. of Emergency Med. Dec. 2008; pg 534

### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* Does failure to recognize child abuse often occur in the ED setting?

*Answer:* Yes. As many as one-third of physically abused children have had previous ED visits for trauma evaluation without consideration of abuse.

*Source:* American College of Emergency Medicine Scientific Assembly Abstract 113

### Risk Management:

*Question:* Is the identification of agonal breathing just prior to initiation of resuscitation a valuable predictor of survival to hospital discharge?

*Answer:* Yes. "Gasps" vs. "non-gasps" were five-times more likely to survive to hospital discharge for resuscitation from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

*Source:* Circulation. Nov 24, 2008

## Practice Pearl:

*Question:* What are the two pharmacologic differences between low molecular weight heparin (Enoxaparin) and fondaparinux (Arixtra)?

*Answer:* Enoxaparin has a half-life of 4-7 hours whereas the half-life of fondaparinux is 16-20 hours. A longer half life increases the potential risk of bleeding complications. Also, there is no reversal agent for fondaparinux whereas protamine reverses the anticoagulation effect of Enoxaparin.

*Source:* Scientific Assembly American College of Chest Physicians, 2008

