

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



Medical Literature Review



RURAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY NETWORK

Quality Matters...

Infectious Disease

Question: Outpatient antibiotic therapy may be appropriate for the treatment of acute diverticulitis. If a patient is allergic to metronidazole or fluoroquinolones, what is an acceptable single antibiotic alternative?

Answer: Amoxicillin clavulanate. (Augmentin)

Source: *NEJM*. November 15, 2007; pg. 2061

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: What is the long term risk of epilepsy following traumatic brain injury in children and young adults?

Answer: The risk of seizures following mild head injury is 2-fold and 7-fold after severe head injury in these cohorts. (10 year follow-up)

Source: *Lancet*. March 28, 2009

Medication Management

Question: What is the most appropriate aspirin dose for the initial treatment of STEMI?

Answer: 162 milligrams (two 81mg tablets). There is no benefit to a larger dose, which may be associated with a greater likelihood of bleeding, particularly gastrointestinal.

Source: *Circulation*. January 15, 2008

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: Is treponin a sensitive marker to "rule in" myocardial infarction?

Answer: No. False positives can occur, for example, with sepsis, CHF, PE, AF, and renal failure.

Source: *Annals of IM*. May 3, 2005; vol 142; pages 786 - 791

Nursing Focused Care

Question: What percentage of **new** cases of AIDS in the US occur in women?

Answer: In 2007, 27% of newly diagnosed cases of AIDS occurred in women, including teens.

Source: *CDC*. February 18, 2009

Risk Management:

Question: What chart documentation, office or ED, should be included when sending a febrile child home without a specific diagnostic source of fever?

Answer: "The child is alert, interactive, and not toxic appearing."

Source: *EMed Home*. "High Risk Areas for Pediatric Emergency Medicine." September 1, 2006

Practice Pearl

Question: What is the difference in risk for thromboembolic events when comparing electrical vs. pharmacologic conversion of atrial fibrillation?

Answer: The risk is similar. Thus, medication management after 48 hours following the onset of atrial fibrillation also carries significant embolic risk.

Source: *Annals of IM*. December 16, 2003; pg. 1013