

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



Medical Literature Review



RURAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY NETWORK

Quality Matters...

Infectious Disease

Question: Acute septic arthritis involving 2 or more joints should raise concern for what condition?

Answer: Bacterial endocarditis. Also consider disseminated gonococcal infection.

Source: *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, May 2007

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: Contrast media induced nephropathy associated with imaging studies is usually transient. When does the serum creatinine peak and when does it return to baseline?

Answer: Serum creatinine peaks at three days and baseline renal function returns by 10 days.

Source: *NEJM*; 354:379

Medication Management

Question: What group of medications may precipitate hypoglycemia in patients taking sulfonylureas, including glimepiride, glipizide, and glyburide?

Answer: NSAIDs, especially in the elderly, may induce significant hypoglycemia.

Source: *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2001; 134(4):344

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: Severe hypothermia has a protective CNS effect. Aggressive cardiopulmonary resuscitation of the patient with accidental hypothermia should be contin-

ued until the patient has been re-warmed to what temperature?

Answer: 86°F to 90°F

Source: *Circulation. Journal of the American Heart Association Consensus Paper*; 2005

Nursing Focused Care

Question: CT scan of the cervical spine is the INITIAL imaging study of choice in trauma patients who present with neck pain associated with a high energy mechanism of injury. True or False?

Answer: True. Add intoxication to this CT criteria.

Source: *Journal of Trauma*. 2004;56:1022-1028

Risk Management

Question: What is a distracting injury in the presence of cervical spine trauma?

Answer: A distracting injury is another painful injury (often an extremity) which focuses the patient's concern away from less painful cervical trauma.

Source: *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 2001;38:1-7

Practice Pearl

Question: Some patients have, or claim to have, allergy to diagnostic contrast media or are concerned about radiation associated with CT scans. What two diagnostic tests, in combination, are as reliable as an IVP for the identification of a stone associated with renal colic?

Answer: A renal ultrasound and KUB provide valuable information regarding collecting system obstruction and localization of a radiopaque stone.

Source: *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 2004; 5(7): 666-671