

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



Medical Literature Review



RURAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY NETWORK

Quality Matters...

Infectious Disease

Question: What percentage of the world's population is infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis?

Answer: Estimates approach 33%, with TB ranking as one of the world's major causes of mortality.

Source: *MMWR. February 13, 2009*

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: The primary fetal risks associated with high-dose radiation exposure from imaging studies are growth restriction, microcephaly, and developmental disabilities. When is the fetus most vulnerable?

Answer: 8 - 15 menstrual weeks of gestation. There is minimal risk in the 3rd trimester.

Source: *MMWR. April 10, 2009*

Medication Management

Question: What two commonly prescribed medications can elevate serum creatinine levels without actually altering GFR?

Answer: TMP-SMZ and H-2 blocker cimetidine can reduce secretion of creatinine, thus spuriously elevating the serum level without altering renal function.

Source: *Mayo Clinic Proceedings. 2009;84:180-186*

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: What is the initial emergency imaging study of choice for the detection of an acutely expanding abdominal aortic aneurysm?

Answer: Sonography. However, if the ED provider is not skilled at bedside ultrasound or a radiology technician performed ultrasound is

not readily available, then a stat CT/KUB should be ordered.

Source: *Emergency Medicine Practice: An Evidence Based Approach to Techniques and Procedures for the 21st Century*

Nursing Focused Care

Question: Which group of trauma patients, commonly seen in the ED, is at higher risk for cervical spine fracture?

Answer: The elderly, often with a seemingly minimal traumatic mechanism of injury. The prevalence of cervical spine injury in trauma patients over the age of 65 is double that of younger patients.

Source: *Radiology. 2005;234(1):143-149*

Risk Management

Question: With serious cervical spine injury, preservation of spinal cord function is critical. Minimal motor function and/or preserved sensation below the area of cord injury suggest guarded optimism for significant functional recovery. True or False?

Answer: True

Source: *Text - Skeletal Trauma: Basic Science, Management, and Reconstruction. 2009*

Practice Pearl

Question: Why is it important to quickly identify carotid artery stenosis as the cause of a patient's TIA?

Answer: The American Stroke Association and American College of Cardiology have identified TIA as an emergency diagnosis. There is significantly improved surgical benefit when carotid intervention occurs within 2 weeks of the TIA. Also, antiplatelet therapy should be initiated immediately after the diagnosis of TIA, assuming a normal CT scan with respect to hemorrhage.

Source: *Annals of Emergency Medicine. 2008;52:527-529*