

Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



Medical Literature Review



RURAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY NETWORK

Quality Matters...

Infectious Disease

Question: What serious nonsuppurative sequelae can follow infection with streptococcus pyogenes?

Answer: Rheumatic fever, which follows only pharyngeal infection and acute glomerulonephritis which more commonly follows streptococcal skin infection.

Source: *Todar's Online Textbook of Bacteriology*

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: What is the most common cause of an inappropriate shock from an AICD (automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator)?

Answer: AF or an atrial flutter. Thus, these rhythms may require rate control and consideration for anticoagulation.

Source: *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*. September 2007, page 812

Medication Management

Question: Do many patients have true immune mediated allergy to opiates?

Answer: No. Most patients with "allergy" to opiates experience histamine release, a pharmacologic side effect of some opioids, resulting in pruritus, hives, and flushing.

Source: *EMedHome, Clinical Pearl*. November 19, 2008; 5 references

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: What has become a well recognized cause of stroke in young patients?

Answer: Cocaine and amphetamines increase the risk of stroke by elevating blood pressure or triggering spasm of cerebral vessels.

Source: *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 2007;64:495-502

Nursing Focused Care

Question: What should be the initial oxygen saturation goal for patients experiencing COPD exacerbation?

Answer: 88 - 92%, in an attempt to avoid precipitating CO₂ narcosis.

Source: *Thorax*. 2000;55(7):550-554

Risk Management

Question: What diagnosis should be considered in an elderly individual who has the onset of a new headache?

Answer: Temporal arteritis. This disorder may also result in permanent blindness. A sedimentation rate should be included in the evaluation of these patients.

Source: *EPIC (Emergency Physicians Insurance Company) - Risk Management*

Practice Pearl

Question: Peripheral artery disease (PAD) is a common vascular condition which increases the risk of MI, stroke, or death from cardiovascular disease by a three-fold factor. Does the addition of warfarin to antiplatelet therapy reduce the likelihood of these pathologic events?

Answer: No. The WAVE trial (Warfarin Antiplatelet Vascular Evaluation) primary message was: In patients with PAD who don't have a clear indication for oral anticoagulants (AF or mechanical heart valve, for example), using coumadin in addition to antiplatelet therapy is not recommended. In addition, an increase in life-threatening bleeding was encountered in the warfarin group.