

Medical Literature Review



Infectious Disease

Question: Antiviral therapy should be given to which patients with influenza?

Answer: Many healthy patients can certainly be treated with supportive therapy alone. High risk populations include the elderly (>65), age < 2, chronic cardiopulmonary disease, pregnancy, immunosuppression, renal or hepatic disease, and diabetes mellitus.

Source: *Clinical Practice Guidelines, IDSA.* April 2009.

Family Practice/Internal Medicine

Question: Patients with AF have a significant risk for embolic CVA. What risk factors increase the likelihood of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation?

Answer: Advancing age, hypertension, diabetes, and previous history of stroke or TIA.

Source: *JAMA.* August 27, 2003.

Medication Management

Question: Both Bactroban (mupirocin) and Altabax (retapamulin) are approved for the treatment of impetigo. Which is most active against MRSA?

Answer: Altabax. Emergence of resistance to Bactroban is being reported.

Source: *Pediatric Emergency Care.* April 2010;26:222.

Urgent/Emergent Care

Question: Why is lidocaine a better choice for lip laceration repair than bupivacaine (Marcaine)?

Answer: Bupivacaine has a longer duration of action due to greater serum protein binding. A patient whose lip is anesthetized for several

hours may accidentally bite the wound and disrupt the repair.

Source: *Emergency Medicine Practice.* "Fixing Faces Painlessly: Facial Anesthesia in Emergency Medicine." December 2009.

Nursing Focused Care

Question: What antibiotic should be taken by health care workers who have had direct contact with mucosal secretion from the patient with pneumococcal meningitis?

Answer: None. Chemoprophylaxis is indicated for meningococcal meningitis and for those providers who have close secretion contact, such as endotracheal intubation or respiratory suctioning.

Source: *Emergency Medicine Practice.* "Adult Acute Bacterial Meningitis in the US: 2009 Update." September 2009.

Risk Management

Question: What major joint dislocation is often overlooked on initial presentation?

Answer: Posterior dislocation of the shoulder, as the AP x-ray may appear deceptively normal. An axillary or transcapular view may be necessary if clinical suspicion for the diagnosis exists.

Source: *Emergency Medicine Practice.* "Electrical Injuries: A Review for the Emergency Clinician." October 2009.

Practice Pearl

Question: What may be the most important risk factor for adult patients with unexplained syncope? (The concern, of course, is arrhythmia as the cause for syncope.)

Answer: Three risk stratification studies have been published. The San Francisco Syncope Rule is the most often quoted. In all of these studies, one common risk factor emerges. This is a history of CHF.

Source: *EMed Home Clinical Pearls.* July 19, 2006. (Four references.)