

# Rural Healthcare Quality Network

A Clinical Forum Newsletter



## Medical Literature Review

### Infectious Disease

*Question:* Malignant external otitis is a skull based osteomyelitis. What patient cohort is most susceptible to this life threatening infection?

*Answer:* Diabetic patients. The most common organism responsible for this infection is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

*Source:* NEJM. Vol 363. pg. 2151.

### Family Practice/Internal Medicine

*Question:* Why is it important to diagnose benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) as the etiology for those patients with acute inner ear signs and symptoms?

*Answer:* Patients with persistent vertiginous symptoms due to BPPV will likely respond to services offered by Physical Therapy, utilizing the modified Epley maneuver.

*Source:* J. Emerg. Med. ePub Online. 3-2-11.

### Medication Management

*Question:* What is the typical use failure rate for oral contraceptives?

*Answer:* 8%. Male condoms have a use failure rate of 15%.

*Source:* MMWR. Jan. 14, 2011.

### Urgent/Emergent Care

*Question:* Is herpes zoster more or less contagious than primary chicken pox?

*Answer:* Less, particularly if covered with



clothing. When the zoster lesions are dry and crusted they are no longer contagious

*Source:* Mayo Clinic Proceedings. Vol. 84, pg. 274.

### Nursing Focused Care

*Question:* Are tonic-clonic movements associated with a syncopal episode always suggestive of a seizure disorder?

*Answer:* No. Brief tonic-clonic muscular activity is relatively common with a vagal syncopal event secondary to cerebral hypoxia. Absence of postictal confusion, incontinence and tongue biting support a benign diagnosis in this setting.

*Source:* NEJM. 343: 1856, 2000.

### Risk Management:

*Question:* Is SCFE (slipped capital femoral epiphysis) generally associated with a sudden onset of pain?

*Answer:* No. The symptoms of SCFE (hip and/or knee pain) are usually insidious. A common presentation is an adolescent boy with the onset of limping.

*Source:* American Journal of Emerg Med. 20: 484, 2002.

### Practice Pearl:

*Question:* West Nile virus infection is most common in wild birds, but can also infect non-vaccinated horses. However, what is the course of illness when humans are infected by the bite of a mosquito carrying this virus?

*Answer:* Most patients infected with West Nile virus are asymptomatic or develop a self-limited febrile illness. However, approximately 1% of individuals will develop severe encephalitis and/or meningitis. Treatment is only supportive.

*Source:* J. EM Med, ePub, Online 8/24/11.

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