



Abnormal chest radiograph in pregnancy

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ENDGAMES, p 1174

After heart attacks, two types of drugs are commonly prescribed: antiplatelet treatment and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) for depression. A retrospective analysis of patients discharged after acute myocardial infarction over 10 years found that compared with aspirin alone, the combined use of an SSRI and antiplatelet therapy resulted in a higher risk of bleeding. The combination of two antiplatelet agents plus SSRI also increased the risk of bleeding compared with dual antiplatelet therapy alone (*CMAJ* 2011;183:1835-43, doi:10.1503/cmaj.100912).

Cemented or cementless; apparently, it doesn't matter in knees. A cohort of 52 patients who underwent simultaneous bilateral total knee replacement with identical prostheses—one cemented, the other non-cemented—were followed up for an average of 13.6 years. At the final review there were no significant differences between the groups in mean Knee Society scores, osteoarthritis indices, ranges of knee movement, patient satisfaction, or radiological results. Survival rates of the femoral components were 100% in both groups at 14 years, while cemented tibial components survived marginally better than non-cemented. No osteolysis was identified in either group (*Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* 2011;93-B:1479-86, doi:10.1302/0301-620X.93B11.27507).

If central venous catheters are inserted adjacent to haemodiafiltration catheters in critically ill patients, drugs administered through the central venous catheter may be immediately aspirated by the haemodiafiltration catheter, resulting in underdosing. Researchers designed a bench model to evaluate the potential effects of this problem using ink as a visual tracer and creatinine solution as a quantifiable tracer. Unless the arterial port of the filtration catheter was at least 1 cm upstream from the central venous catheter, the tracers were completely aspirated. No tracer aspiration occurred when central venous catheters were infusing at least 2 cm downstream (*Anaesthesia* 2011, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2044.2011.06955.x).

A genetic component has long been suspected for people with irritable bowel syndrome, but the culprit has been elusive. A Swedish team has identified that the Crohn's disease risk allele rs4263839 G in the TNFSF15 gene is



This 57 year old smoker, with a history of high alcohol consumption and tonsillectomy, presented with pain in the left side of his throat. He had fetor with ulceration and leucoplakia in the left tonsillar fossa. The clinical impression was initially of oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, and he received the appropriate investigations. But subsequent histology confirmed sarcoidosis and his symptoms were resolved with steroid treatment. Although biopsies are essential for persistent oropharyngeal lesions, any malignant histology must be confirmed early to avoid subjecting patients to unnecessary investigations and heightened anxiety.

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Patient consent obtained.

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significantly associated with an increased risk of irritable bowel syndrome, especially when characterised by constipation. The TNFSF15 gene is involved in the regulation of immune and inflammatory responses, shedding light on what might be going wrong in people with irritable bowel syndrome (*Gut* 2011;60:1671-7, doi:10.1136/gut.2011.241877).

Patients with prolactinomas often take dopamine agonists to reduce prolactin levels. What is not known is for how long they should be treated. In a retrospective study of 15 adults with macroprolactinoma and 45 with microprolactinoma who were treated with dopamine agonists for more than three years and who had a trial off medication, hyperprolactinaemia recurred early in most macroprolactinomas (93%) and microprolactinomas (64%) once treatment was discontinued. The conclusion: for most macroprolactinomas, dopamine agonist treatment should not be withdrawn even after seven years of therapy (*Clinical Endocrinology* 2011;75:819-24, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2265.2011.04136.x).

Pregnant women who eat salmon twice a week might be doing their offspring a good turn. Researchers found that dietary salmon intake during pregnancy reduced the endothelial response in the umbilical cord, implicating a role for long chain, omega 3 fatty acids in the suppression of human inflammatory

processes. If this action applies to other blood vessels, it suggests a possible mechanism by which these fatty acids might lower cardiovascular risk (*American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2011;94:1418-25, doi:10.3945/ajcn.111.016592).

The Great East Japan Earthquake hit northeast Japan in March. A study of 142 patients in the area who had hypertension and who continued to monitor their own blood pressure showed that systolic but not diastolic pressures were significantly raised immediately after the quake. Systolic pressures remained high for the next two weeks, but these increases disappeared four weeks after the quake (*Hypertension* 2011;58:e193-4, doi:10.1161/hypertensionaha.111.184077).

Delusional parasitosis (a false and fixed belief of infestation) is easily treated with antipsychotic drugs. In a study of 59 treated patients in a joint psychiatric-dermatology clinic, 68% declared that their symptoms improved or resolved with medication. Although 73% reported total remission for at least nine months after stopping treatment, 27% said that their symptoms had recurred within four months. This group of individuals might need extended treatment courses or even long term maintenance treatment (*British Journal of Dermatology* 2011;165:893-6, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2133.2011.10426.x).

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