



This Week in the Journal

APRIL 1, 2004

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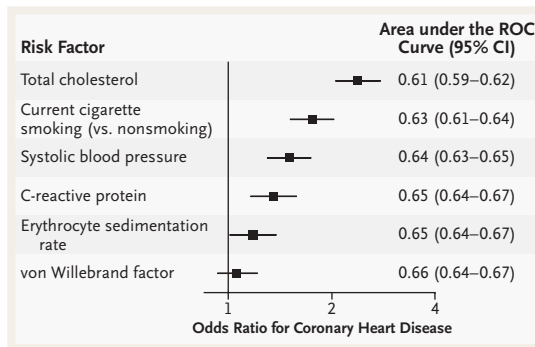
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POWERPOINT SLIDES OF JOURNAL FIGURES

At the *Journal's* Web site, subscribers can automatically create PowerPoint slides of *Journal* figures. Click on a figure in the full-text version of any article at www.nejm.org, and then click on PowerPoint Slide for Teaching. A PowerPoint slide containing the image, with its title and reference citation, can then be downloaded and saved.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

C-Reactive Protein and the Risk of Coronary Disease



This large, prospective study calls into question the value of the C-reactive protein (CRP) concentration in the prediction of coronary events. In contrast to previous research, this study found that the strength of the CRP concentration as a predictor is relatively moderate and that it

adds little to the predictive value of standard coronary risk factors, such as the cholesterol concentration, smoking status, and blood pressure.

The authors believe that recommendations for the use of CRP in the prediction of coronary risk need to be reviewed.

SEE P. 1387; EDITORIAL, P. 1450

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Vaccination and Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus

This case-control study of all children born in Denmark from 1990 through 2000 examined detailed information on vaccinations and the occurrence of type 1 diabetes. Using Poisson regression models, the investigators estimated rate ratios for diabetes among all children according to vaccination status. There appeared to be no association between any type of vaccination and diabetes mellitus.

These results do not support a causal relation between childhood vaccination and type 1 diabetes.

SEE P. 1398; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1380

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Influence of Resection and Aneuploidy on Mortality in Oral Leukoplakia

This study showed that complete resection of oral leukoplakia with aneuploidy does not reduce the risk of oral cancer or the risk of death from oral cancer. (In aneuploidy, the number of chromosomes is not an exact multiple of the normal diploid number — for example, 49 chromosomes.)

Oral leukoplakia, which is often associated with tobacco use, remains a difficult clinical problem.

SEE P. 1405; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1382

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Consent and Patient Registries

Governments and ethics boards increasingly require written informed consent from all subjects before enrollment in clinical registries. The authors of this article examine the effect of a comprehensive effort to obtain informed consent on the participation rate in the prospective Registry of the Canadian Stroke Network. The overall participation rate was 39.3 percent during phase 1 of the project and 50.6 percent during phase 2. Obtaining written consent was costly, leading to selection bias.

These findings highlight the need for privacy legislation and policies permitting waivers to informed consent for minimal-risk observational research.

SEE P. 1414; EDITORIAL, P. 1452

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Infections and Surgical Implants

About half of all nosocomial infections are associated with indwelling devices. Infections associated with implanted surgical devices are particularly difficult to deal with because they can require prolonged antibiotic treatment and repeated surgical procedures. This review summarizes the diagnostic challenges and explains the approaches to managing infections that are associated with various devices, including prosthetic heart valves, vascular grafts, pacemakers and defibrillators, and joint prostheses.

SEE P. 1422

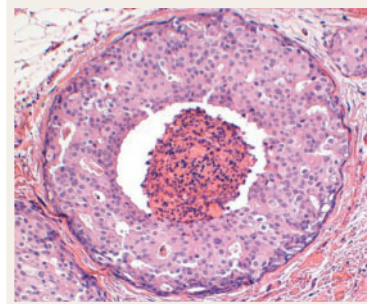


MEDICAL PROGRESS

Ductal Carcinoma in Situ

Ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast (also called intraductal carcinoma), a clonal proliferation of malignant-appearing cells within the mammary duct lumens without evidence of invasion beyond the epithelial basement membrane, is the precursor lesion of invasive breast cancer. In the past 20 years, concomitant with the wide use of screening mammography, its detected incidence has risen dramatically. Data from large cohort studies and randomized trials have emerged to guide treatment. This review summarizes progress in the understanding, pathogenesis, and treatment of ductal carcinoma in situ.

SEE P. 1430



CLINICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING

Red Snapper or Crab?

A 68-year-old man originally from the Philippines presented with a three-month history of increasing dyspnea on exertion and orthopnea. He also reported an unintentional weight loss of 7 kg (15 lb), night sweats, and abdominal bloating.

SEE P. 1443

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Getting Through to Cancer

There are two experimental approaches to treat cancer through tweaking the immune system; both depend on T lymphocytes' having access to tumor. A recent study involving a mouse model demonstrates the importance of accessibility and is thus relevant to both approaches.

SEE P. 1461