



This Week in the Journal

APRIL 15, 2004

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COLLECTIONS OF ARTICLES ON THE JOURNAL'S WEB SITE

The *Journal's* Web site (www.nejm.org) sorts published articles into 53 distinct clinical collections, which are listed on the home page and can be used as convenient entry points to clinical content. In each collection, articles are cited in reverse chronologic order, with the most recent first.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Prognosis of Adult Acute Myeloid Leukemia

This study demonstrates that the genes expressed by peripheral-blood monocytes of adults with acute myeloid leukemia provide prognostic information over and above that provided by established indicators such as cytogenetic status. The authors analyzed the gene-expression profiles of samples obtained from 116 patients, who were subsequently assigned to receive various intensive treatments. They identified good- and poor-outcome classes of gene expression that were associated with differences in overall survival — even when the analysis was restricted to specimens with a normal karyotype.

SEE P. 1605; EDITORIAL, P. 1676;
PERSPECTIVE, P. 1595

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Prognostically Useful Gene-Expression Profiles in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

This investigation of 285 cases of acute myelogenous leukemia combined sophisticated analyses of gene-expression profiles with cytogenetic findings, mutational status, and morphologic characteristics to identify distinct groups of patients. These groupings were related to the outcome of treatment.

This article raises the possibility that a single multifactorial analysis can provide clinically useful prognostic information for patients with acute myelogenous leukemia.

SEE P. 1617; EDITORIAL, P. 1676;
PERSPECTIVE, P. 1595

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Measurements of Serum Free Cortisol in Critically Ill Patients

In critically ill patients, elevated glucocorticoid secretion is marked by a rise in the serum total cortisol concentration. This study investigated the effect of decreased amounts of cortisol-binding protein on total and free serum cortisol concentrations during critical illness, when glucocorticoid secretion is maximally stimulated. Critically ill patients were found to have markedly elevated glucocorticoid secretion that was not detectable when only the serum total cortisol concentration was measured.

Measuring serum free cortisol concentrations in critically ill patients with hypoproteinemia can provide information that may help prevent the unnecessary use of glucocorticoid therapy.

SEE P. 1629; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1601

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Trends in Embryo-Transfer Practice in the United States

An analysis of trends in the practice of assisted reproductive technology in the United States reveals that, since 1997, there have been consistent decreases in the number of embryos transferred per cycle and in the percentage of pregnancies involving three or more fetuses, along with a consistent increase in the percentage of live births per cycle.

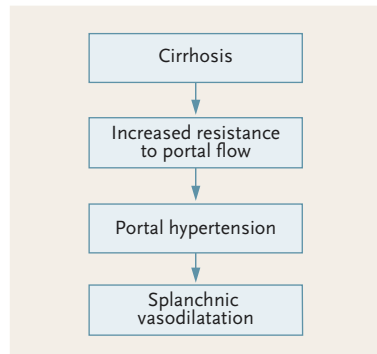
SEE P. 1639; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1603

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Management of Cirrhosis and Ascites

This review summarizes current knowledge about the pathophysiology of ascites and explains the appropriate approach to clinical evaluation. The authors describe measures for the control of ascites as well as strategies for its management and for the prevention of major complications, including gastrointestinal bleeding, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, and the hepatorenal syndrome.

SEE P. 1646; CME, P. 1697

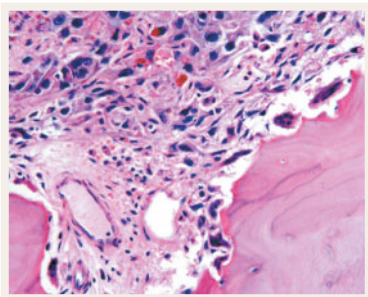


MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

Mechanisms of Bone Metastasis

This authoritative survey discusses how tumor cells cause bone metastases by producing both local and systemic factors that disrupt the balance between bone formation and bone resorption. Research on the molecular mechanisms of these processes has uncovered promising leads that may improve the treatment and prevention of bone metastases.

SEE P. 1655; CME, P. 1698



CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Woman with Acute Onset of Pain in the Chest

A 38-year-old woman who had given birth to a healthy infant by cesarean section two weeks earlier experienced a sudden onset of pain in her throat, anterior chest, and back, maximal at onset, accompanied by shortness of breath, sweating, and nausea. Physical examination revealed symmetric pulses, normal blood pressure, and a diastolic heart murmur. Initial imaging studies showed widening of the aortic root, with inflammatory changes in the mediastinum, mild aortic regurgitation, and a pericardial effusion. The differential diagnosis of acute chest pain in a young woman is discussed.

SEE P. 1666; CME, P. 1699

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Mouse Models Influence Gene Therapy

The promise of gene therapy has been dimmed in the past few years by a number of setbacks, including the development of T-cell leukemia in infants treated for severe combined immunodeficiency. A recent study suggests that these cases do not augur ill for the field as a whole and that specific changes to gene-therapy protocols may reduce the chances that such therapy will inadvertently trigger cancer.

SEE P. 1679