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Next Week in the Journal

OCTOBER 21, 2004

The California Stem-Cell Initiative

Keith Yamamoto



This Week in the Journal

OCTOBER 14, 2004

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms



Abdominal aortic aneurysms greater than 5 cm in diameter are usually repaired surgically. This study compared open surgical repair with endovascular repair through the femoral artery, a less invasive approach. After 30 days, mortality and rates of major complications were significantly lower with endovascular than with open repair.

Although the operative mortality is decreased, longer follow-up is needed to confirm the durability of these results.

SEE P. 1607; EDITORIAL, P. 1677; CME, P. 1703

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Growth Patterns and the Risk of Breast Cancer

In this study, associations between breast cancer and patterns of growth during childhood were analyzed in the school health records of 117,415 Danish women. High birth weight, a young age at peak growth, and high stature and low body-mass index at 14 years of age were all independent risk factors for breast cancer in adulthood. The mechanisms of these associations are unknown, but the data indicate that growth during childhood influences the risk of breast cancer during adult life.

SEE P. 1619; EDITORIAL, P. 1679

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Mitral Regurgitation and Acute Pulmonary Edema

In patients with ischemic heart disease, mitral regurgitation may be a dynamic phenomenon, increasing or decreasing on the basis of changes in loading conditions or left ventricular geometry. This study shows that transient increases in the severity of mitral regurgitation may have an important role in the pathogenesis of acute pulmonary edema. Interventions to reduce or prevent mitral regurgitation might be beneficial.

SEE P. 1627; EDITORIAL, P. 1681

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Circuit Priming for Cardiopulmonary Bypass in Infants

Nearly 20,000 operations to repair congenital heart lesions are performed each year in the United States, and most are performed with the use of cardiopulmonary bypass. The bypass circuit needs to be primed before use, either with fresh whole blood or with blood that has been reconstituted from packed red cells and fresh-frozen plasma. This study, which compared the two priming methods, found that fresh whole blood offers no advantage over reconstituted blood and that its use may in fact be disadvantageous.

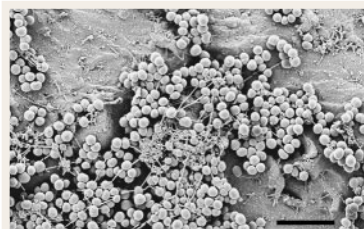
SEE P. 1635; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1603

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Prosthetic-Joint Infections

Modern techniques have reduced the frequency of infections that are associated with prosthetic joints, but such infections continue to pose difficult problems in clinical management. Advances in understanding biofilms and the pathogenesis of microbial interactions with the implant have led to more rational approaches to therapy. This review offers guidance in establishing the diagnosis correctly and an algorithm summarizing the appropriate medical and surgical options.

SEE P. 1645; CME, P. 1701



MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

This review of the mechanism of pulmonary hypertension is focused on pulmonary arterial hypertension, a disorder that can be idiopathic or can occur in association with other disorders, such as infection with the human immunodeficiency virus. The authors suggest that an abnormality involving intracellular signaling mediated by transforming growth factor β underlies the various forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

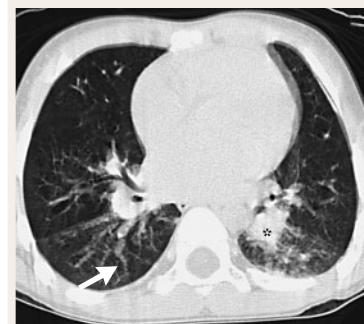
SEE P. 1655; CME, P. 1702

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Four-Year-Old Boy with Hypoxemia

A four-year-old boy was found to be hypoxemic during a febrile illness. On examination, there was clubbing of the fingers and toes; imaging studies disclosed no pulmonary infiltrates. A perfusion scan of the lungs showed a right-to-left shunt. A diagnostic test was performed.

SEE P. 1667



CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Commensal Bacteria and the Intestinal Epithelium

A recent study shows that commensal bacteria are critical to maintaining the integrity of the intestinal epithelium; this finding has implications for our understanding of inflammatory bowel disease.

SEE P. 1685