



This Week in the Journal

NOVEMBER 25, 2004

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Next Week in the Journal

DECEMBER 2, 2004

Hepatitis E

Suzanne Emerson and Robert Purcell

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Transplantation of Cord Blood or Bone Marrow in Adults

Outcomes were compared in adults with leukemia who had received hematopoietic stem-cell transplants from unrelated donors. Patients received HLA-matched bone marrow, bone marrow with one HLA mismatch, or cord blood with one or two mismatches. The outcomes were most favorable in recipients of HLA-matched marrow but similar in those who had received mismatched marrow or cord blood.

The results of this study reinforce the clinical advantages of cord blood as a source of hematopoietic stem cells for transplantation in adults with leukemia.

SEE P. 2265; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2255; EDITORIAL, P. 2328; CME, P. 2359

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Cord-Blood versus Bone Marrow Transplants from Unrelated Donors in Adults

This report compares major outcomes after treatment of acute leukemia in adults with either bone marrow or umbilical-cord blood from an unrelated donor. Except for delayed recovery of neutrophils and a reduced risk of graft-versus-host disease in recipients of cord blood, the results with cord blood and bone marrow were similar.

At its inception, transplantation of cord blood for the treatment of leukemia was confined to children, because of the small number of hematopoietic stem cells in a unit of cord blood. In the past few years, however, it has become apparent that transplanting cord blood into adults is feasible.

SEE P. 2276; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2255; EDITORIAL, P. 2328

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
Responses to Reduced-Dose Influenza Vaccine Given Intradermally

In a randomized trial, 238 healthy adults received either the full dose of a candidate influenza vaccine administered intramuscularly or 40 percent of the dose administered intradermally. The antibody responses among those who were 18 to 60 years of age were similar in the intradermal and intramuscular groups, but the responses were somewhat less vigorous in those over the age of 60 years.

At least among healthy adults who are no older than 60 years of age, intradermal injection of a reduced dose of influenza vaccine may be an effective strategy when the vaccine supply is limited.

SEE P. 2286; EDITORIAL, P. 2330

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
Intradermal Injection of Reduced-Dose Influenza Vaccine

In this trial, 50 healthy adults 18 to 40 years of age received an intradermal injection of one fifth the standard dose of an influenza vaccine. The resulting increases in hemagglutination-inhibition titers were at least similar to those elicited by the standard dose of vaccine administered intramuscularly to 50 control subjects.

The use of reduced doses of vaccine may be one way of expanding a limited supply of vaccine. However, the responses may not be as impressive in infants, the elderly, and those with major medical conditions.

SEE P. 2295; EDITORIAL, P. 2330

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
Radial-Artery versus Saphenous-Vein Grafts for Coronary Bypass

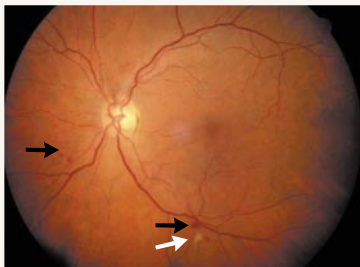
The radial artery was first used as a coronary bypass graft in 1971, but there have been conflicting reports about its patency as compared with that of saphenous-vein grafts. In this study, radial-artery grafts had a higher patency rate at one year than control saphenous-vein grafts. The advantage was particularly evident when the radial artery was grafted to coronary vessels with high-grade lesions. This study supports the use of the radial artery as a coronary bypass conduit in vessels with high-grade stenosis.

SEE P. 2302; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2262; CME, P. 2358

CURRENT CONCEPTS
Hypertensive Retinopathy

This review explains the pathophysiological changes that elevated blood pressure produces in the retinal circulation. Recent studies show that some specific retinal signs are strong predictors of stroke, independent of elevated blood pressure. Identifying the degree of retinopathy can help clinicians to deliver optimal treatment and prevent cardiovascular disease and death.

SEE P. 2310; CME, P. 2357



CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
A 23-Day-Old Infant with Hypospadias and Failure to Thrive

A male infant was noted to have severe hypospadias and ambiguous genitalia at birth. By one week of age, he began vomiting after even small feedings. An evaluation disclosed no evidence of maternal or fetal infection or prenatal exposure to toxins. On examination, he had slightly dysmorphic facies and axial and appendicular hypotonia. A diagnostic test was performed.

SEE P. 2319



SOUNDING BOARD
The Family History — More Important Than Ever

Although the family history is part of the basic workup that has been taught in medical schools for generations, it often does not get the attention it should. In this article, the authors make the case for taking a good family history in the era of genomic medicine and provide a computer tool that can be downloaded and used by patients to help record this history.

SEE P. 2333

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH
Breast Cancer and Drug Resistance

A new study uncovers a mechanism by which trastuzumab (Herceptin) counters the progression of cancer. The findings point to a subgroup of patients who are likely to have a response to treatment.

SEE P. 2337