

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

CD4+ Invariant T-Cell Receptor–Positive Natural Killer T Cells in Asthma

Asthma is accompanied by inflammation of the airway. In this study, immunohistochemical analysis of the lymphocytes identified in asthmatic airways was consistent with a finding of natural killer T cells expressing an invariant T-cell receptor that produced type 2 helper (Th2) cytokines. These findings call into question the previous designation of these airway lymphocytes as Th2 T cells.

SEE P. 1117; EDITORIAL, P. 1186

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Maintenance Treatment of Major Depression in Old Age

In this randomized, controlled trial of elderly patients with major depression who had had a response to initial treatment with paroxetine and psychotherapy, two years of maintenance paroxetine prevented recurrent depression, but maintenance psychotherapy did not. Major depression recurred in 35 percent of patients receiving paroxetine plus psychotherapy, 37 percent of those receiving paroxetine plus clinical-management sessions, 68 percent of those receiving placebo plus psychotherapy, and 58 percent of those receiving placebo plus clinical-management sessions.

SEE P. 1130; EDITORIAL, P. 1189; CME, P. 1219

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

In Vitro Fertilization with Single Blastocyst-Stage versus Cleavage-Stage Embryos

In this randomized trial in women under 36 years of age who were undergoing a first or second trial of in vitro fertilization, transfer of a single blastocyst-stage (day 5) embryo resulted in higher rates of pregnancy and delivery than transfer of a single cleavage-stage (day 3) embryo. Multiple gestation was rare.

SEE P. 1139; EDITORIAL, P. 1190

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Who Is at Greatest Risk for Receiving Poor-Quality Health Care?

Previous research has found differences in health care access and quality among sociodemographic groups. In this study of patients who had made at least one visit to a health care provider during the previous two

years, quality-of-care scores were suboptimal overall but were not lower for women than for men or for black or Hispanic patients than for whites. Poorer patients had a slightly lower quality of care: recommended care was received by 53 percent of those with annual family incomes below \$15,000 and 57 percent of those with incomes above \$50,000.

SEE P. 1147

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Delirium in Older Patients

The prevalence of delirium increases sharply with age, and about 20 percent of older patients have delirium at the time of hospital admission for any reason. This review summarizes the clinical manifestations of and risk factors for delirium and the evaluation of patients with this condition. It includes an update on the current understanding of the pathogenesis of delirium and provides guidance regarding practical measures to prevent this common complication.

SEE P. 1157; CME, P. 1217

MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

Regulation of Immune Responses by T Cells

This review summarizes recent advances in the understanding of how the immune system averts autoimmunity while maintaining protective immunity.

SEE P. 1166

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Woman with Crohn's Disease and Altered Mental Status

A 71-year-old woman with Crohn's disease, who had been receiving treatment with mercaptopurine and infliximab, had fatigue, blurred vision, headache and mood changes, and an inguinal mass. She had a sudden onset of left-sided weakness; brain imaging disclosed a mass, and she was transferred to this hospital. Shortly after admission, she had a seizure and became unresponsive.

SEE P. 1178; CME, P. 1218

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Targeting MicroRNA and Cholesterol

Studies have tested the therapeutic value of small inhibitory RNAs by introducing them to an animal model of disease. A new study takes the opposite tack: a specific endogenous inhibitory RNA is ablated in the mouse, resulting in a large decrease in serum cholesterol.

SEE P. 1194