

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Saw Palmetto for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

Extracts of the saw palmetto berry are widely used for symptoms of benign prostatic hypertrophy. This one-year randomized trial showed that saw palmetto was no more effective than placebo in ameliorating symptoms and signs of benign prostatic hypertrophy.

SEE P. 557; EDITORIAL, P. 632; CME, P. 659

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Radiotherapy plus Cetuximab for Head and Neck Cancer

Treatment of advanced locoregional head and neck cancer with high-dose radiotherapy plus cetuximab was superior to radiotherapy alone in improving local control and overall survival.

SEE P. 567; EDITORIAL, P. 634

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

SSRIs in Pregnancy and Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn

This case-control study demonstrates a significant association between persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn and the use of selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) during the second half of pregnancy. There was no significant association between this outcome and the use of SSRIs during the first half of pregnancy or the use of non-SSRI antidepressants during pregnancy.

SEE P. 579; EDITORIAL, P. 636

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

NXY-059 for Acute Ischemic Stroke

This randomized placebo-controlled trial evaluated a free-radical-trapping agent (NXY-059) in patients with acute ischemic stroke. At 90 days, treatment

with NXY-059 was associated with improvement according to the modified Rankin scale for disability (the primary outcome measure), but no significant benefit on the other outcome measures, including the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale. Additional studies are needed to determine whether NXY-059 is beneficial in patients with stroke.

SEE P. 588; PERSPECTIVE, P. 553

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Antibiotic Allergy

A 55-year-old woman presents to the hospital with cellulitis. She reports a history of urticaria 30 years earlier associated with taking penicillin for a respiratory infection. Should cephalosporins be avoided? More generally, how should patients with a history of antibiotic allergy be evaluated and treated?

SEE P. 601; CME, P. 657

MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

Chemokines and Chemokine Receptors

In this review, the authors discuss the properties of chemokines and their receptors and highlight the roles of these chemoattractants in selected clinical disorders.

SEE P. 610

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Woman with Myalgias, Fatigue, and Shortness of Breath

A 79-year-old woman had abrupt onset of pain in the shoulders, neck, and back two days after beginning treatment with ezetimibe. These symptoms persisted, and weakness developed despite discontinuing ezetimibe. The erythrocyte sedimentation rate was 90 mm per hour. Prednisone (20 mg daily) led to improvement in the muscle pain and weakness, but dyspnea and hoarseness developed, and she was admitted to the hospital. A diagnostic procedure was performed.

SEE P. 623; CME, P. 658