

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effectiveness of Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs in Patients with Alzheimer's Disease

In this randomized trial of atypical antipsychotic medications in patients with Alzheimer's disease and psychosis, aggression, or agitation, effectiveness (as measured by the time to drug discontinuation) was similar for olanzapine, risperidone, quetiapine, and placebo. Patients were more likely to stop taking placebo because of lack of efficacy and were likely to stop taking antipsychotic medications because of intolerability.

SEE P. 1525; EDITORIAL, P. 1604; CME, P. 1630

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Microscopic-Observation Drug-Susceptibility Assay for Diagnosis of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis

For culture and antimicrobial-susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, results are typically available in 1 to 2 months. This report from Peru demonstrates that the microscopic-observation drug-susceptibility assay may be more sensitive for the detection of *M. tuberculosis* than the current standard techniques and that results are available in significantly less time (median, 7 days).

SEE P. 1539; EDITORIAL, P. 1606

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Ramipril to Prevent Diabetes in Subjects with Impaired Glucose Regulation

In a 2-by-2 factorial design, participants without cardiovascular disease but with impaired fasting glucose levels or impaired glucose tolerance received ramipril or placebo (with or without rosiglitazone) for a median of 3 years. The results suggest that ACE inhibitors may modestly improve glucose metabolism, though ramipril failed to change the rate of death or newly diagnosed diabetes.

SEE P. 1551; EDITORIAL, P. 1608

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Self-Regulation Program to Maintain Weight Loss

This maintenance program was based on self-regulation theory that included daily self-weighing. The authors tested the efficacy of delivering the program face to face or over the Internet as compared with the provision of a quarterly newsletter. The interventions improved maintenance of weight loss, particularly when delivered face to face.

SEE P. 1563; CME, P. 1631

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Chronic Health Conditions in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer

The Childhood Cancer Survivor Study found a high rate of illness owing to chronic health conditions among more than 10,000 adult survivors of childhood cancer.

SEE P. 1572; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1522

CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS

External-Beam Radiotherapy for Localized Prostate Cancer

External-beam radiotherapy is recommended for a 69-year-old man with localized prostate cancer. This therapy has evolved rapidly owing to the development of sophisticated techniques for focusing the radiation beam precisely on its target. Important adverse effects include radiation proctitis, cystitis, urethritis, and erectile dysfunction.

SEE P. 1583; CME, P. 1629

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A 15-Year-Old Girl with Severe Obesity

A girl had been severely obese since early childhood. She had been adopted in infancy, and her adoptive parents and siblings had normal weights. Numerous programs had failed to produce sustained weight loss. She had problems with snoring, insomnia, somnambulation, daytime sleepiness, and depression. Management options were discussed.

SEE P. 1593

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Progression of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Progression of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis may be influenced by microglia, immune cells of the central nervous system.

SEE P. 1611

VIDEOS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Thoracentesis

Thoracentesis may dramatically reduce respiratory distress in patients presenting with large pleural effusions. In addition, diagnostic thoracentesis is a valuable procedure in a patient with pleural effusion of unknown cause. The fluid can be categorized as a transudate (a product of imbalanced hydrostatic forces) or an exudate (a product of increased capillary permeability or lymphatic obstruction). This procedural video demonstrates how to perform thoracentesis.

SEE P. e16

