

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Antimalarial Efficacy of Chloroquine in Malawi

Resistance to chloroquine is a major challenge in the treatment of falciparum malaria. In 1993, Malawi replaced chloroquine with sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine for malaria treatment. After the return of chloroquine-susceptible falciparum malaria to Malawi, investigators studied the reemergent clinical efficacy of chloroquine and found that it was approximately 99% effective.

SEE P. 1959; PERSPECTIVE, P. 1956

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Rabbit Antithymocyte Globulin vs. Basiliximab in Renal Transplantation

Induction therapy reduces the frequency of acute rejection and delayed graft function. In this study in patients at high risk for acute rejection or delayed graft function who received a cadaveric renal transplant induction therapy with rabbit antithymocyte globulin reduced the incidence and severity of acute rejection, but not the incidence of delayed graft function, as compared with a monoclonal interleukin-2 receptor antibody. Patient and graft survival were similar in the two groups.

SEE P. 1967; EDITORIAL, P. 2033

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Pallidal Deep-Brain Stimulation in Primary Generalized or Segmental Dystonia

In this sham-controlled trial of neurostimulation of the internal globus pallidus for primary dystonia, neurostimulation improved movement, disability, and quality-of-life scores. Adverse events were common; 18% of patients had infections at the stimulator site, seroma, or lead breakage or dislodgment, and 12% had dysarthria.

SEE P. 1978

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Low-Carbohydrate-Diet Score and the Risk of Coronary Heart Disease in Women

In the Nurses' Health Study, the risk of coronary heart disease during 20 years of follow-up was not increased among participants with the lowest levels of carbohydrate intake. It is not clear whether the findings apply to low-carbohydrate diets undertaken specifically to lose weight.

SEE P. 1991; CME, P. 2059

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Nitric Oxide and Cyclic GMP in Cell Signaling and Drug Development

In the 116th Shattuck Lecture, Nobel laureate Ferid Murad explains how nitric oxide was discovered to be a

biologically important molecule and outlines its multiple roles.

SEE P. 2003

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Spinal Epidural Abscess

Spinal epidural abscesses are often initially misdiagnosed, particularly in neurologically intact patients. Epidural infections can cause injury to the spinal cord. The incidence of these infections has increased with increasing use of spinal instrumentation, vascular access, and injection drugs. This review explains the diagnostic and therapeutic challenges and how to avoid spinal cord infarction.

SEE P. 2012; CME, P. 2057

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Woman with Nausea Followed by Hypotension and Respiratory Failure

A 72-year-old woman awoke from sleep with nausea that worsened during a 24-hour period. Evaluation disclosed pulmonary infiltrates, an elevated granulocyte count, hypoxemia, and hypotension; antibiotics were administered. Blood drawn later showed elevated levels of cardiac enzymes, and an electrocardiogram showed ST-segment elevation. Hypoxemia and hypotension worsened. A diagnostic procedure was performed.

SEE P. 2022; CME, P. 2058

HEALTH POLICY REPORT

Medical-Process Patents — Monopolizing the Delivery of Health Care

Researchers patented their discovery that elevated homocysteine levels are associated with vitamin B₁₂ and folate deficiency. The right to hold a patent on a basic scientific relationship was challenged, and the case (*LabCorp v. Metabolite*) was appealed to the Supreme Court.

SEE P. 2036

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Connecting the Dots Using Gene-Expression Profiles

A new, searchable repository of gene-expression data reveals new candidate drugs and drug targets.

SEE P. 2042

VIDEOS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Paracentesis

Abdominal paracentesis can establish the cause of ascites or rule out spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in patients with ascites. Large-volume paracentesis in hemodynamically stable

patients with tense or refractory ascites can alleviate discomfort or respiratory compromise. This procedure video demonstrates how to perform paracentesis.

SEE P. e21

