

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Infection in Eastern Turkey in 2006

Avian influenza A (H5N1) spread to Turkey in late 2005. These investigators report on the clinical characteristics of 8 of the 12 patients with WHO-confirmed H5N1 infection in Turkey in January 2006, including all the patients who died. Establishing the diagnosis of H5N1 infection was quite challenging and was successfully achieved with the use of a real-time polymerase-chain-reaction assay.

SEE P. 2179; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2174

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Three Indonesian Clusters of H5N1 Virus Infection in 2005

In 2005, multiple cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection were identified in Indonesia. Three case clusters are reported, involving eight patients with a 50% rate of death, although mild disease was also seen. The outbreak was caused by clade 2 H5N1 virus, and no antiviral resistance was identified.

SEE P. 2186; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2174

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Fetal Pulse Oximetry and Cesarean Delivery

In this randomized trial of fetal pulse oximetry, there were no significant differences in the rates of cesarean delivery (overall or for the indication of a nonreassuring fetal heart rate) or in the conditions of infants at birth between women whose clinicians were made aware of the oximetry results and women whose clinicians were not. These findings do not support the use of fetal pulse oximetry in women in labor.

SEE P. 2195; EDITORIAL, P. 2247

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Bivalirudin for Patients with Acute Coronary Syndromes

In this trial, patients with acute coronary syndromes undergoing an early invasive approach were randomly assigned to treatment with heparin or enoxaparin plus a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor, bivalirudin plus a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor, or bivalirudin alone. Rates of ischemic events at 30 days were similar for all three groups, whereas major bleeding was significantly re-

duced in the group receiving bivalirudin alone. The trial suggests that bivalirudin monotherapy may be similar in efficacy to standard therapy, although bivalirudin monotherapy is associated with a reduced risk of bleeding. Pretreatment with a thienopyridine seems to be necessary if bivalirudin monotherapy is used.

SEE P. 2203; EDITORIAL, P. 2249; CME, P. 2271

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Educational Strategies to Promote Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning

This article considers how doctors learn to reason in the clinical environment and recommends practical approaches that clinical teachers can use to promote the development of strong diagnostic reasoning skills in their students.

SEE P. 2217; EDITORIAL, P. 2251

CURRENT CONCEPTS

The Asthma Epidemic

This review surveys the data on the increase in the prevalence of asthma in recent decades and finds evidence of a plateau in many Western countries. The authors examine the evidence of possible causal relations to factors such as air pollution, obesity, diet, and exposure to infections, antibiotics, and allergens, including exposures at very young ages. The most strongly supported preventive measure is the avoidance of passive and active exposure to smoke.

SEE P. 2226; CME, P. 2269

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A 35-Year-Old Pregnant Woman with New Hypertension

A 35-year-old woman in her second pregnancy was found to have hypertension and glycosuria at 17 weeks' gestation, which persisted despite medication. She was admitted to the hospital. She had had gestational diabetes during her first pregnancy. Serum electrolytes were normal except for a potassium level of 2.6 mmol per liter. Additional laboratory testing and a diagnostic procedure were performed.

SEE P. 2237; CME, P. 2270

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

A Link between Neurotoxicity and Aging

Molecular pathways that modulate neurotoxicity of the β -amyloid peptide have been delineated; these are controlled by another pathway that modulates aging.

SEE P. 2254