

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Breast-Cancer Stromal Cells with *TP53* Mutations and Nodal Metastases

A laser-capture microdissection technique was used to pluck individual breast-cancer epithelial cells and surrounding stromal cells from pathology slides for studies of the *TP53* gene and loss of heterozygosity across the genome. Mutations of the gene and loss of heterozygosity were found in normal-appearing stromal cells, findings that were associated with the presence of lymph-node metastases. These results suggest that genetic alterations in cells of the microenvironment accelerate the spread of a tumor.

SEE P. 2543; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2537

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

TP53 Mutations and Survival in Squamous-Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck

TP53, the gene for the tumor-suppressor protein p53, is the most commonly mutated gene in cancer cells. In this study of head and neck cancer, about half the tumors had a *TP53* mutation. The presence of mutations that could disrupt the binding of p53 to a DNA target had the strongest association with decreased survival. The results indicate that a disruptive mutation of *TP53* is an independent risk factor for death among patients with head and neck cancer.

SEE P. 2552; PERSPECTIVE, P. 2539

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Reduced Exposure to Calcineurin Inhibitors in Renal Transplantation

This study examines the toxicity of immunosuppressive regimens in renal-transplant recipients. A regimen containing mycophenolate mofetil, daclizumab, low-dose tacrolimus, and corticosteroids appeared to be the most effective with respect to the glomerular filtration rate, allograft survival, and acute rejection, as compared with regimens containing dacluzimab induction plus either low-dose cyclosporine or low-dose sirolimus and with standard-dose cyclosporine without induction.

SEE P. 2562; EDITORIAL, P. 2625

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Telbivudine versus Lamivudine in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B

In this randomized trial comparing telbivudine and lamivudine in patients with chronic hepatitis B, telbivudine was associated with higher rates of response at 1 year among HBeAg-positive patients (75.3% vs. 67.0%, $P=0.005$); the rates of response to telbivudine and lamivudine among HBeAg-negative patients were similar (75.2% and 77.2%, respectively; $P=0.62$). Telbivudine was associated with elevated creatine kinase levels.

SEE P. 2576; CME, P. 2647

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Outcomes of Care by Hospitalists, General Internists, and Family Physicians

In this large retrospective cohort study of hospitalized adults, patients cared for by hospitalist physicians had modestly shorter hospital stays than patients treated by general internists or family physicians but similar in-hospital mortality.

SEE P. 2589; EDITORIAL, P. 2627; CME, P. 2646

MEDICAL PROGRESS

Infectious Diseases after Solid-Organ Transplantation

Increasingly potent immunosuppressive agents have dramatically reduced the incidence of rejection of transplanted organs while increasing susceptibility to opportunistic infections and cancer. This article reviews general concepts for the management of transplantation-associated infections and discusses recent advances and challenges.

SEE P. 2601; CME, P. 2645

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A 5-Month-Old Girl with Skin Lesions

A 5-month-old girl was seen in the pediatric dermatology clinic because of a rash. At the age of 3 months, a red papule had developed on her cheek, followed by a generalized eruption. She was well except for the skin lesions. A diagnostic procedure was performed.

SEE P. 2616

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Small RNAs and Large DNA Viruses

The human cytomegalovirus generates noncoding RNAs that allow viruses to persist by enhancing the survival of infected cells and shielding them from attack by natural killer cells.

SEE P. 2630