

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Treatment of the Hypereosinophilic Syndrome with Mepolizumab

The hypereosinophilic syndrome, although uncommon, is difficult to treat, and the treatment has substantial toxic effects. This proof-of-concept trial shows that treatment of patients with the hypereosinophilic syndrome with an anti-interleukin-5 monoclonal antibody, mepolizumab, improves clinical and laboratory outcomes.

SEE P. 1215; EDITORIAL, P. 1293

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Duration of Red-Cell Storage and Complications after Cardiac Surgery

Stored red cells undergo progressive structural and functional changes over time. In a study of 6002 patients undergoing cardiac surgery at a single institution, those who received blood stored for 14 days or less had lower rates of complications and death than those who received blood stored for more than 14 days.

SEE P. 1229; EDITORIAL, P. 1295

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Polymorphisms Associated with Cholesterol and Risk of Cardiovascular Events

Several single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with lipid levels have been identified. In a cohort of 5414 study subjects, 11 such SNPs were tested and their relationship with lipid levels confirmed. A genotype score comprising nine of these SNPs was independently associated with incident cardiovascular disease, even after adjustment for baseline lipid levels.

SEE P. 1240

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Quality of Life and Satisfaction with Outcome among Prostate-Cancer Survivors

Quality of life and satisfaction with outcome of treatment were ascertained by questionnaires in men with

prostate cancer and their spouses or partners after prostatectomy, brachytherapy, or external-beam radiotherapy (with or without adjuvant hormonal treatment). Each treatment had its own pattern of effects on the quality of life, and in each case, residual effects of treatment caused distress in the patients' partners.

SEE P. 1250; CME, P. 1319

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Hormonal Contraception in Women of Older Reproductive Age

A healthy, lean 46-year-old woman who is a nonsmoker requests advice about contraception. She notes that her menstrual periods are less regular than previously, and she also reports intermittent bothersome hot flashes. She is in a new relationship after a divorce, and she is sexually active. She asks if she can begin to use an oral contraceptive. What would you advise?

SEE P. 1262; CME, P. 1317

CURRENT CONCEPTS

Acinetobacter Infection

The gram-negative coccobacillus *Acinetobacter*, a pathogen once seen only in hot, humid climates, has become an increasingly common nosocomial problem even in temperate climates. For infections caused by multidrug-resistant isolates, antibiotic choices may be quite limited. This review summarizes the approaches to treatment and the current understanding of the ability of *Acinetobacter* to accumulate diverse mechanisms of resistance, with the emergence of strains resistant to all commercially available antibiotics.

SEE P. 1271; CME, P. 1318

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Woman with a Nonhealing Ulcer of the Jaw

A 65-year-old woman was seen in the oral surgery clinic because of a nonhealing ulcer of the mandible at the site of a tooth that had been extracted 3 years earlier. The patient had multiple myeloma and had been treated with intravenous bisphosphonates for 6 years. Examination disclosed red, raised soft tissue in the right mandible, with mucosal ulceration and exposed bone. A diagnostic procedure was performed.

SEE P. 1283