

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Weekly Paclitaxel and Breast Cancer

This randomized trial of adjuvant chemotherapy in women with axillary lymph node–positive or high-risk, lymph node–negative breast cancer showed that weekly paclitaxel improved disease-free and overall survival as compared with docetaxel, when either was given after standard adjuvant chemotherapy.

SEE P. 1663

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Intensive Care for Extremely Premature Newborns

The decision to give intensive care to very preterm infants is often guided by gestational age alone. In this multicenter, prospective study of infants who received such care, female sex, singleton birth, higher birth weight, and antenatal corticosteroids were associated with reduced risks similar in magnitude to those associated with a 1-week increase in gestational age.

SEE P. 1672

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

YKL-40 Levels and Asthma

The chitinase-like protein YKL-40 is known to be involved in inflammation and tissue remodeling and is a biomarker of asthma severity and pulmonary function. This study shows an association between markers in the gene encoding YKL-40 and asthma, indicating that YKL-40 levels not only serve as a biomarker but also contribute to disease susceptibility.

SEE P. 1682; EDITORIAL, P. 1725

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

A 28-year-old woman presents with a 7-month history of recurrent, crampy pain in the left lower quadrant, bloating with abdominal distention, and frequent, loose stools. She reports having had similar but milder symptoms since childhood. Physical examination is unremarkable except for tenderness over the left lower quadrant. How should her case be evaluated and treated?

SEE P. 1692; CME, P. 1770

MEDICAL PROGRESS

Management of Very Low Birth Weight

With increasing numbers of extremely premature infants surviving, the outcome for these infants has generated much interest and controversy. This article reviews recent progress in the management and outcomes of

1662

some of the most common conditions affecting infants with very low birth weight (1500 g or less) and extremely low birth weight (1000 g or less).

SEE P. 1700; CME, P. 1769

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Newborn Infant with Apnea and Seizures

A 1-day-old female infant was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit because of intermittent apnea and cyanosis. She was delivered by cesarean section after a 44-hour labor, 17 hours after rupture of membranes. On the second day of life, multiple episodes of apnea occurred. A 24-hour electroencephalogram showed evidence of seizure activity.

SEE P. 1713; CME, P. 1771

SOUNDING BOARD

Pharmaceutical Promotion to Physicians

Legal restrictions on off-label promotion of drugs are being challenged in the courts as a violation of First Amendment protection of “commercial speech.” The authors argue that public health concerns make pharmaceutical promotion different from other commercial speech and that more stringent regulation should be permitted.

SEE P. 1727

SOUNDING BOARD

Tectonic Shifts in the Health Information Economy

As patients store their personal health information in online repositories, the entities holding this information may be able to use it for a variety of purposes. This article explains the challenges and problems associated with a small number of companies holding large numbers of individual health records.

SEE P. 1732

SOUNDING BOARD

Electronic Health Records and Medical Research

As medical records and research data are increasingly stored electronically, data standards permitting the integration and analysis of such information have become necessary. Progress is being made in developing and disseminating a common data format.

SEE P. 1738

HEALTH POLICY REPORT

Grassroots Activism and Physician Supply

In this Health Policy Report, the author discusses the supply of physicians in the United States and the growing consensus that there will be a shortage of physicians in the future. Medical and osteopathic schools are expanding, and the Association of American Medical Colleges believes graduate medical education (residency) positions also should be increased.

SEE P. 1741