

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries in U.S. Soldiers Returning from Iraq

In this survey of soldiers who served in Iraq, about 15% reported concussions, also known as mild traumatic brain injuries (injuries resulting in brief loss of consciousness or confusion). Soldiers who had mild traumatic brain injuries were more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder and physical health problems than were soldiers with other injuries.

SEE P. 453; EDITORIAL, P. 525; CME, P. 547

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Endovascular vs. Open Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms

Endovascular repair is a less invasive strategy than open repair for the management of abdominal aortic aneurysm. This observational study in a large Medicare population shows that perioperative survival is superior with endovascular repair but that the survival advantage gradually wanes over 3 years. The survival advantage is more durable in older patients.

SEE P. 464

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Cardiovascular Events during World Cup Soccer

This study documented an increased risk of cardiovascular events among viewers of highly competitive soccer matches during the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany. These data further establish the risk of cardiovascular events during stressful situations.

SEE P. 475

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Mortality from Violence in Iraq

In this national household survey, violence-related mortality in Iraq since the 2003 invasion was estimated to be 151,000 (95% confidence interval, 104,000 to 223,000). Although this estimate is lower than that in another recent report, it still indicates a massive death toll from violence in this war-torn country.

SEE P. 484; PERSPECTIVE, P. 445

CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS

Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

A 72-year-old man is found to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm that is 5.7 cm in diameter, and endovascular repair is considered. The use of an abdominal aortic stent-graft for repair of an abdominal aortic aneurysm is associated with lower early mortality than open surgical repair but also with a higher risk of subsequent need for reintervention and with a less certain long-term outcome.

SEE P. 494; CME, P. 545

MOLECULAR ORIGINS OF CANCER

Oncogenes and Cancer

This review — the first in a series concerning the biology of cancer — is a comprehensive survey of oncogenes, tumor-suppressor genes, and microRNA genes in cancer cells. Work on the recently discovered microRNA genes in malignant cells has revealed new complexities in the regulation of oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes and new opportunities for the treatment of cancer.

SEE P. 502; EDITORIAL, P. 527

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A 33-Year-Old Pregnant Woman with Swelling of the Left Breast and Shortness of Breath

A 33-year-old pregnant woman was admitted to the hospital at 30.7 weeks' gestation because of swelling of the left breast, shortness of breath, and tachycardia. The swelling of the left breast had developed at 26.1 weeks' gestation and did not improve with antibiotic treatment. Ultrasonography and mammography showed enlargement of the left breast with increased density and no masses. A biopsy was performed. Shortness of breath developed, and the patient was admitted to the hospital. Computed tomography of the chest disclosed a large mediastinal mass.

SEE P. 513; CME, P. 546

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Understanding Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Experiments on genetically engineered mice indicate that perimucosal tumor necrosis factor α influences the development of microflora associated with inflammatory bowel disease.

SEE P. 528