

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Extended Prophylaxis to Reduce Breast-Milk HIV-1 Transmission

The prevention of mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) during breast-feeding is a unique opportunity to curtail the AIDS epidemic. In this trial in Malawi, 3016 infants without HIV-1 infection who were born to infected mothers were randomly assigned to receive a single dose of nevirapine plus 1 week of zidovudine (control regimen) or the control regimen plus extended daily prophylaxis with nevirapine or with nevirapine plus zidovudine until the age of 14 weeks. Extended prophylaxis significantly decreased the rate of HIV-1 transmission (10.6%, 5.2%, and 6.4%, respectively) at 9 months.

SEE P. 119; EDITORIAL, P. 189; CME, P. 219

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Early, Abrupt Weaning and HIV-free Survival in Children in Zambia

Minimizing the risk of maternal-to-child transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a high priority. In this trial in Zambia, 958 HIV-infected women were randomly assigned to breast-feeding according to the standard practice or to abrupt weaning at 4 months. There was no significant difference in HIV-free survival between the study groups at 24 months.

SEE P. 130; EDITORIAL, P. 189

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Noninvasive Ventilation in Acute Cardiogenic Pulmonary Edema

Noninvasive ventilation (either continuous positive airway pressure or noninvasive intermittent positive-pressure ventilation) had no effect on 7-day or 30-day mortality in patients with cardiogenic pulmonary edema, as compared with standard oxygen therapy. Noninvasive ventilation should be used only to relieve symptoms and correct metabolic disturbances.

SEE P. 142

BRIEF REPORT

Familial Myeloma

This report describes three generations of a family that included five cases of multiple myeloma, three cases of monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), and five cases of prostate cancer. The putative

progenitor had progeny with prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, and MGUS with two female partners.

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BRIEF REPORT

Atrial Natriuretic Peptide Frameshift Mutation in Familial Atrial Fibrillation

In a family with hereditary atrial fibrillation, linkage analysis and candidate-gene sequencing identified a frameshift mutation in the atrial natriuretic peptide gene. This mutation segregated with atrial fibrillation in the family and generated a fusion protein that was detected by radioimmunoassay in the plasma of affected family members. The mutant protein caused shortening of the atrial monophasic action potential and the effective refractory period in isolated perfused hearts.

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CLINICAL PRACTICE

Initial Management of Epilepsy

A 29-year-old woman reports that the previous evening, her husband (who was in the next room) heard unusual sounds and found her lying on the bed looking dazed. She was confused for a few minutes but quickly returned to normal. She recalls an unwitnessed event about 1 month previously when she awoke feeling mildly confused and had sore muscles. How should she be evaluated and treated?

SEE P. 166; CME, P. 217

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Boy with Fever and Pulmonary Infiltrates

An 11-month-old boy was admitted to this hospital after returning from a trip to India, during which fever and pulmonary infiltrates had developed and had recurred despite treatment with broad-spectrum antimicrobial therapy. On admission, the patient had fever and an erythematous nodule on his right forearm. Imaging studies disclosed bilateral nodular pulmonary infiltrates with calcification. Diagnostic tests were performed.

SEE P. 178; CME, P. 218

HEALTH LAW, ETHICS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellness Programs and Lifestyle Discrimination — The Legal Limits

Many health plans and employers offer wellness programs and incentives for participation. In this article, the authors examine the legal issues employers and health plans must consider as they develop programs to reward healthy behaviors and discourage unhealthy ones.

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