

THIS WEEK in the JOURNAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Fractional Flow Reserve versus Angiography for Guiding PCI

Fractional flow reserve (FFR) is a measure of the functional significance of a coronary stenosis. In this study, the use of FFR, as compared with angiography alone, in guiding the placement of coronary stents resulted in the use of fewer stents and better clinical outcomes.

SEE P. 213; EDITORIAL, P. 292; CME, P. 318

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs and the Risk of Sudden Cardiac Death

It is known that the use of typical antipsychotic agents (e.g., haloperidol) is associated with an increased risk of sudden cardiac death. This study shows that the same association applies to the newer atypical antipsychotic agents (e.g., risperidone) and is dose-related.

SEE P. 225; EDITORIAL, P. 294; CME, P. 319

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Cumulative Live-Birth Rates after IVF

Among couples undergoing up to six cycles of in vitro fertilization (IVF) at one large infertility center, the overall live-birth rate was 72% with an optimistic analysis (assuming that women lost to follow-up had the same chance of pregnancy as women who continued treatment) and 51% with a conservative analysis (assuming that there were no live births among women lost to follow-up). These rates decreased significantly with increasing maternal age.

SEE P. 236

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine on Pneumococcal Meningitis

Streptococcus pneumoniae is an important cause of bacterial meningitis. Since the introduction of the heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine PCV7, rates of pneumococcal meningitis have decreased substantially in the United States, from 1.13 cases to 0.79 case per 100,000 persons between 1998–1999 and 2004–2005; rates of disease from serotypes covered by the vaccine decreased the most, and rates from those not covered increased.

SEE P. 244

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Peginterferon Alfa-2a and Ribavirin in Latino and Non-Latino Whites with Hepatitis C

In this open-label, nonrandomized trial, Latino and non-Latino white patients with chronic hepatitis C (genotype 1) were treated with peginterferon alfa-2a and ribavirin for 48 weeks. The sustained virologic response rate was lower among Latino patients than among non-Latino patients (33% vs. 49%). The difference in response was not explained by differences in adherence to treatment or in baseline characteristics of the patients.

SEE P. 257

MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

Endometriosis

This review emphasizes the participation of estrogen and inflammation in the development of endometriosis. A feedback cycle in which prostaglandins and aromatase activity are prominent allows for the persistence of endometriotic tissue. Knowledge of this cycle has important implications for the treatment of endometriosis.

SEE P. 268; CME, P. 317

CASE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Man with Pain and Swelling of the Right Hand and Hypotension

A 25-year-old man was transferred to the emergency department of this hospital because of pain and swelling of the right hand and hypotension. His hand was mottled and swollen, with a black eschar on the dorsum, and soft-tissue swelling extended up the proximal forearm. Vigorous fluid resuscitation and norepinephrine were required for hemodynamic support.

SEE P. 281

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

Oncogenesis and Metastasis

Molecules that are involved in the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and that are known to promote metastasis also have a role in oncogenesis.

SEE P. 297

CLINICAL DECISIONS

Management of Prostate Cancer — Polling Results

Readers' treatment recommendations and comments, along with detailed results of polling, are available at NEJM.org.

SEE P. e4



An interactive graphic is available at NEJM.org