Evidence-Based Medicine

Editors: Brian Haynes & Paul Glasziou

Contents

Purpose and procedure Additional articles abstrcted in ACP Journal Club

EBM Notebook

Practice Corner: Taking evidence in hand **Resource Review**

Therapeutics

Magnesium sulphate prevented eclampsia in women with pre-eclampsia

Simvastatin reduced mortality and vascular events

Antioxidant vitamins did not reduce death, vascular events, or cancer in high risk patients

Oestrogen plus progestin was not effective for long term secondary prevention of coronary heart disease in postmenopausal women

Long term oestrogen plus progestin increased venous thromboembolism and biliary tract surgery in postmenopausal women

Self management with the Angina Plan reduced anxiety, depression, angina attacks, and use of medication

Review: β blockers increase fatigue and sexual dysfunction but not depression after myocardial infarction

Coumadin alone or aspirin plus coumadin reduced coronary events and death after acute myocardial infarction or unstable angina

Involving patients with type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidaemia in disease management improved outcomes

Review: primary prevention strategies do not improve contraceptive use or reduce pregnancies in adolescents

Lansoprazole reduced recurrence of ulcer complications in long term use of low dose aspirin





| 2 | Noninvasive <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> testing was as effective as endoscopy for managing dyspepsia | 20 |
|-----|---|------------|
| 3 | Helicobacter pylori eradication improved dyspepsia symptoms | 21 |
| | Risperidone was safe and effective for short term treatment of | 21 |
| 4 | children with autism and serious behavioural disturbances | 22 |
| 7 | Cognitive behavioural therapy delivered by nurses improved insight and overall symptomatology in schizophrenia | 23 |
| | Treatment of scalp lacerations with a hair apposition technique reduced scarring, pain, and procedure duration compared with suturing | 2 4 |
| 9 | Tonsillectomy and adenotonsillectomy showed modest benefits in | |
| 10 | children moderately affected with recurrent throat infection | 25 |
| | Diagnosis | |
| 11 | Various history and physical examination characteristics predicted nerve root compression | 26 |
| 12 | Review: specific combinations of symptoms effectively rule in the diagnosis of urinary tract infection based on history alone | 27 |
| 13 | B type natriuretic peptide levels had high sensitivity but moderate specificity for detecting CHF in the emergency department | 28 |
| 14 | Review: ELISA D-dimer is sensitive but not specific in diagnosing pulmonary embolism in an ambulatory clinical setting | 29 |
| 15 | | |
| - / | Prognosis | |
| 16 | Review: 1 in 8 preschool children develop \geq 1 complication after presenting to primary care with acute cough | 30 |
| 17 | Functional neurological deficit but not epilepsy alone increased the risk of death in childhood epilepsy | 31 |
| 18 | Economics | |
| 19 | Review: the cost-effectiveness of interventions for HIV/AIDS in Africa varies greatly | 32 |