FROM THE JOURNALS


http://www.acponline.org/running_practice/ethics/issues/policy

This new position paper from the ACP, in collaboration with 10 other professional societies, provides ethical guidance to physicians for developing mutually supportive patient-physician-caregiver relationships. The role of family caregivers is reviewed along with the problems that they encounter. The recommendations will be helpful to internists who provide routine care for older adults and communicate with informal caregivers.

McMurray, JJ., *Clinical Practice. Systolic Heart Failure*, NEJM 2010, Jan 21; 362(3):228-238

A case-based review of a very common inpatient diagnosis. The NEJM website provides supplementary materials and a teaching Powerpoint slide set.


This article adds to what we know about surgical outcomes in the oldest old; this Australian cohort ranged from age 85-97. Mortality rate after abdominal surgery was 17.3%; however, ASA score and premorbid residential status were more predictive of mortality than was age. 62.8% experienced at least one complication; the most common of these were pulmonary edema and atrial fibrillation. This paper will help us provide patients and their decision makers with information that they will need to make difficult decisions in acute illness.

Barkun, AN et al., *International consensus recommendations on the management of patients with nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding*, Annals Int Med 2010; 152:101-113

Just what the name implies, the recommendations include the role of risk stratification to determine which patients should undergo early endoscopy and need prolonged observation. Other topics include the utility of high dose PPI therapy, parenteral PPI therapy, patients who require continued NSAID use and patients who need ongoing antiplatelet therapy.

ID CORNER

CATHETER-RELATED URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

This is a problem that I see frequently: when should you culture or treat urine culture results from Foley catheters? It is frequently mismanaged, inappropriate antibiotics are given and multiresistant organisms are selected. The IDSA has published new practice guidelines: Hooten, TM et al., *Diagnosis, prevention and treatment of catheter-associated urinary tract infection in adults*. 2009 International practice guidelines from the Infectious Disease Society of America. Clin Infect Dis 2010; 50:625-663

http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/650482