
FROM THE JOURNALS

Robert Lancey MD

Yandiola et al., Prospective Comparison of Severity Scores for Predicting Clinically Relevant Outcomes for Patients Hospitalized with Community-Acquired Pneumonia, CHEST, June 2009; 135(6): 1572-1579

http://www.chestjournal.org/content/135/6/1572.abstract

A new severity score for hospitalized patients with CAP, the Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia (SCAP) score, was found to be superior in multiple measures when compared with PSI and CURB-65.

Cantor et al., Routine Early Angioplasty after Fibrinolysis for Acute Myocardial Infarction, NEJM 2009, June 25; 360(26): 2705-18

http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/360/26/2705

Over 1000 AMI patients who were treated with fibrinolysis were randomized to early PCI or standard treatment. Those who underwent early PCI had a significant reduction in major endpoints (death, reinfarction, CHF, cardiogenic shock) at 30 days (11% vs. 17.2% in the standard treatment group).

Zier et al., Surrogate Decision Makers’ Responses to Physicians’ Predictions of Medical Futility, CHEST, July 2009; 136(1): 110-117

http://www.chestjournal.org/content/136/1/110.abstract

This small but powerful study out of San Francisco gives an interesting perspective on the attitudes of surrogate decision makers toward physician recommendations about their critically ill family members.

ID CORNER

William Salzer MD

Management of Herpes Zoster:

Whitley, Richard, A 70 year old woman with shingles. Review of Herpes Zoster
JAMA series: Clinical Crossroads
JAMA 2009; 302: 73-80
Online version not currently available without subscription