

## FROM THE JOURNALS

KATE AHMED, MD

**Clostridium difficile infection in patients with inflammatory bowel disease**

Saidel-Odes, L et al., Annals of Gastroenterology, North America, November 24, 2011

<http://www.annalsgastro.gr/index.php/annalsgastro/article/view/1010/739>

This review focuses on the epidemiology, pertinent clinical aspects, standard and newer diagnostic methods, established and novel therapies and prevention of infection. Emphasis is placed on clinical awareness, rapid detection and appropriate therapy.

**Rheumatological manifestations in inflammatory bowel disease**

Voulgari, P, Annals of Gastroenterology, North America, July 24, 2011

<http://www.annalsgastro.gr/index.php/annalsgastro/article/view/915/720>

Rheumatologic manifestations of inflammatory bowel disease are frequent and include peripheral arthritis, axial involvement, peripheral enthesitis, secondary osteoporosis and hypertrophic osteopathy; septic arthritis may also be a complication. This article discusses diagnostic and treatment modalities as well as potential adverse effects of the therapeutic agents.

**Alcoholic Liver Disease: Pathogenesis and New Therapeutic Targets**

Bin Gao, Ramon Bataller, Gastroenterology, Vol 141, Issue 5, November, 2011, pages 1572-1585

[http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085\(11\)01228-5/abstract](http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085(11)01228-5/abstract)

Hepatic cirrhosis is the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S. and 48% of cases are alcohol related. This article reviews new data on the pathogenesis of alcoholic liver disease and identifies some promising therapeutic targets.

**AGA technical review on the evaluation of liver chemistry tests**

Green, RM and S Flamm, Gastroenterology, Vol 123, Issue 4, October 2002, pages 1367-1384

[http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085\(02\)00241-X/abstract](http://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085(02)00241-X/abstract)

Abnormal liver chemistries occur in 1-4% of asymptomatic patients. Their interpretation must be in context with the patient's history, risk factors, physical findings and other lab data.

## ID CORNER

WILLIAM SALZER, MD

## C DIFF....AGAIN

The AHRQ commissioned a systemic review of C diff. Bottom line....vancomycin (\$1300) is probably not better than metronidazole (\$20); also, fidaxomicin (\$3400) appears to reduce relapse vs vancomycin for non-NAP1 strains.

Drekonja, DM et al., Comparative effectiveness of Clostridium difficile treatments. A systemic review. Annals Intern Med 2011; 155:839-847

<http://www.annals.org/content/155/12/839.full.pdf+html>