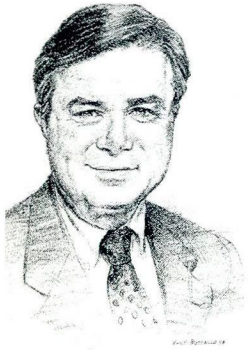

Dear Colleague:

Here is what we have for you in this issue of the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*.

Gastrointestinal dysmotility. From gastric dumping to intestinal pseudo-obstruction, Edy Soffer discusses both standard and newer approaches to diagnosis and treatment of disorders of gastrointestinal motility (page 69).

Cancer management. Maurie Markman discusses principles that can help get better results from treatment when metastatic cancer is diagnosed in the absence of an obvious primary site, even though the prognosis tends to be poor (page 73).

Latex allergy. Latex allergy can cause not only contact dermatitis but also anaphylactic reactions. Children with spina bifida, patients with ladder exstrophy, rubber industry workers, and health care workers are especially at risk. Alton Melton describes the diagnosis and treatment of this affliction. He recommends eight measures that health care institutions—including the FDA—could establish for the safety of patients and health care workers (page 76).

Urinary incontinence. Primary care management of the common and frustrating problem of urinary incontinence in women includes careful evaluation and, frequently, application of pharmacologic and behavioral treatments before urological consultation or surgical intervention. A color illustration depicts four types of prolapse which the physician can identify in the office setting. The authors, Raymond Rackley and Rodney Appell, also describe the important role of estrogens (page 83).

Hypothyroidism and cardiac disease. Hussein Saadi describes untoward interactions between two common diseases, ie, hypothyroidism and coronary arteriosclerosis. Recognition of the coexistence of these conditions in patients where the focus of therapy is on one or the other can prevent treatment-induced disasters (page 93).

Azole antifungal drugs. Amphotericin B therapy of fungal infections can now be supplemented with a variety of other drugs of the azole class, which are less nephrotoxic but have other potential side effects, as discussed by Yu-Ping Lee and Morton Goldman (page 99).

I hope you find these articles interesting and useful. We enjoy hearing from you—please let us know your thoughts.

Cordially,

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