



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Passing the baton

913

Beginning next month, current deputy editor Brian Mandell, MD, PhD, will assume the role of editor-in-chief of the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*. I have enjoyed my tenure and look forward to continuing my association with the *Journal*.

J.D. CLOUGH

## RAPID COMMUNICATION

### Coping with the influenza vaccine shortage

918

How to decide which patients to vaccinate and how to use antiviral drugs, in light of the vaccine shortage.

S.B. MOSSAD

## COMMENTARY

### The sad story of Vioxx, and what we should learn from it

933

The withdrawal of rofecoxib (Vioxx) has important implications both for patients with arthritis and for the pharmaceutical field in general.

J. KARHA AND E.J. TOPOL

## REVIEW

### Benefits of more aggressive VTE prophylaxis in hospitalized medical patients

947

Most hospitalized medical patients who should be receiving anticoagulants to prevent VTE according to current guidelines are not getting them, or are receiving subtherapeutic doses.

L.B. MENAJOVSKY AND J. SPANDORFER

## REVIEW

### Epidural steroids for back and leg pain: Mechanism of action and efficacy

Epidural steroid injections may relieve the patient's pain while healing occurs. Who should receive this therapy, and what kind of benefit can they reasonably expect?

R.F. MCLAIN, L. KAPURAL, AND N.A. MEKHAIL

CONTINUED ON PAGE 916



# CLEVELAND CLINIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE



JOHN D. CLOUGH, MD *Editor-in-Chief*  
 BRIAN F. MANDELL, MD, PhD *Deputy Editor*  
 PETER G. STUDER *Publisher*  
 PHILLIP E. CANUTO *Executive Editor, CCJM*  
 GLENN R. CAMPBELL *Executive Editor, Custom Programs*  
 RAY BORAZANIAN *Managing Editor*  
 DAVID A. HUDDLESTON *Manuscript Editor*  
 AMY SLUGG MOORE *Patient Education Editor*  
 BRUCE M. MARICH *Production Manager*  
 JOSEPH A. PANGRACE *Medical Illustrator*  
 DAVID R. SCHUMICK *Medical Illustrator*  
 JOSEPH KANASZ *Medical Illustrator*  
 IRIS TRIVILINO *Department Coordinator*  
 KATHY DUNASKY *Department Coordinator*  
 CINDY PALMER *Billing/Accounting*

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

ALEJANDRO C. ARROLIGA, MD  
 DAVID BRONSON, MD  
 DANIEL J. BROTMAN, MD  
 WILLIAM D. CAREY, MD  
 BRIAN A. CLARK, PHD, MD  
 GARY FRANCIS, MD  
 KATHLEEN FRANCO-BRONSON, MD  
 STEVEN M. GORDON, MD  
 BRIAN GRIFFIN, MD  
 GARY HOFFMAN, MD  
 BYRON J. HOOGWERF, MD  
 JESSE JACOB, MD  
 AMIR JAFFER, MD  
 MANI S. KAVURU, MD  
 MARTIN LASCANO, MD  
 MANDY C. LEONARD, PHARM D  
 ANGELO A. LICATA, MD, PHD  
 ATUL C. MEHTA, MD  
 FRANKLIN A. MICHOTA, MD  
 ROBERT M. PALMER, MD  
 S. SETHU K. REDDY, MD

DOUGLAS SEIDNER, MD  
 HOLLY L. THACKER, MD  
 DONALD G. VIDT, MD  
 WILLIAM S. WILKE, MD  
 MARC WILLIAMS, MD

## EDITORS EMERITUS

HERBERT P. WIEDEMANN, MD  
 JAMES S. TAYLOR, MD

## CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION

DELOS M. COSGROVE, MD  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION DIVISION OF EDUCATION

ANDREW J. FISHLER, MD  
*Chairman*  
 PHILLIP R. GARD  
*Administrator*

REPRINTS: Cindy Palmer 216-444-2661 palmerc@ccf.org

The *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* (ISSN 0891-1150) is published 12 times yearly by The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

STATEMENTS AND OPINIONS expressed in the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* are those of the authors and not necessarily of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation or its Board of Trustees.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S. and possessions: personal \$98; institutional \$124; single copy/back issue \$16. Foreign: \$124; single copy/back issue \$16. Institutional (multiple-reader rate) applies to libraries, schools, hospitals, and federal, commercial, and private institutions and organizations. Individual subscriptions must be in the names of, billed to, and paid by individuals.

POSTMASTER ADDRESS CHANGES: *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, NA32, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195

SUBSCRIPTIONS, EDITORIAL, BILLING/ACCOUNTING AND PRODUCTION: (same address as above) Phone (216) 444-2661 Fax (216) 444-9385 E-mail ccjm@ccf.org <http://www.ccjm.org>

ADVERTISING: Joseph Dennehy, Director, Sales and Marketing, 120 Castle Ridge Rd, Manhasset, NY 11030 • Phone (516) 365-8640 • Fax (516) 365-0587

AUTHORIZATION TO PHOTOCOPY items for internal or personal use is granted by the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, ISSN 0891-1150, published by The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, provided that the appropriate fee is paid directly to Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA 978-750-8400. Prior to photocopying items for educational classroom use, please contact Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., at the address above. For permission to reprint material, please fax your request with complete information to the Reproduction department at CCC, fax (978) 750-4470. For further information visit CCC Online at <http://www.copyright.com>. To order bulk reprints, see above.

DISCLAIMER: This information is provided for general medical education purposes only and is not meant to substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician relative to the diagnostic and treatment options of a specific patient's medical condition. In no event will The Cleveland Clinic Foundation be liable for any decision made or action taken in reliance upon the information provided through this activity.

COPYRIGHT © 2004 THE CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION PRINTED IN U.S.A.





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 914

## REVIEW.....

### A guide to assessing decision-making capacity 971

Physicians must care for many patients who are neither fully capable nor totally incapable of understanding and expressing choices about their treatment. We present an algorithm for assessing decision-making capacity.

R.C. JONES AND T. HOLDEN

## NEW SERIES: INTRODUCTION.....

### Medical problems in pregnancy 976

This month we start a new series with an article on cardiovascular problems in pregnancy; future articles will cover hypertension, selected neurologic problems, medications, and other pregnancy-related topics for the internist.

## MEDICAL PROBLEMS IN PREGNANCY.....

### Cardiovascular problems and pregnancy: An approach to management 977

We review the impact of pregnancy on a number of heart diseases (and vice versa) and offer recommendations for their management.

S. SIU AND J.M. COLMAN

## PATIENT-ORIENTED EVIDENCE THAT MATTERS (POEMs).....

- Enteral nutrition is preferred in pancreatitis 929
- Omeprazole 20 mg is as effective as 40 mg for primary care of acid-related dyspepsia 943
- Compression stockings prevent postthrombotic syndrome 944
- *Lactobacillus* doesn't prevent postantibiotic vaginitis 945

## DEPARTMENTS.....

- Instructions to Authors 928
- CME Calendar 935
- Index to Volume 71 986
- CME Self-test Online 991

- The *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* is peer-reviewed and indexed in *Index Medicus*.

# UPCOMING FEATURES

- Updated cholesterol guidelines: Tougher, more complicated
- Coronary testing in diabetic patients
- Understanding, recognizing, treating auto-PEEP
- When and how to use electrodiagnostic testing
- Three rheumatologic emergencies
- Should adults with suspected acute bacterial meningitis get steroids?
- Guide to managing *H pylori* infection

■ VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.CCJM.ORG](http://www.ccjm.org)



DEDICATED TO LIFELONG LEARNING  
**CLEVELAND CLINIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE**