SEPTEMBER 2008

Table of Contents

FROM THE EDITOR .................................................................................................................. 616
And then there were none?
An internist’s reflections
In this issue, Dr. Thomas Lansdale eloquently expresses a common theme: medicine just isn’t that much fun anymore. We’d like to hear some solutions.
B.F. MANDELL

COMMENTARY .......................................................................................................................... 618
A medical center is not a hospital
After 23 years in hospital medicine, a department chairman and clinician-educator calls it quits.
T.F. LANSALE III

REVIEW .................................................................................................................................... 623
Eosinophilic esophagitis: An increasingly recognized cause of dysphagia, food impaction, and refractory heartburn
This disease, which was not described as a distinct clinical entity until 1993, may be due to allergic and immune-mediated mechanisms similar to those of asthma and other atopic diseases.
I.T. NONEVSKI, E. DOWNS-KELLY, AND G.W. FALK

THE CLINICAL PICTURE ........................................................................................................ 638
A 51-year-old man with nodular lesions
He presents with a 1-year history of episodic pain, swelling, and stiffness in some of the metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints of his fingers. What is the most likely diagnosis?
S. CHATTERJEE

REVIEW .................................................................................................................................... 641
New asthma guidelines emphasize control, regular monitoring
The goal of asthma therapy is to achieve control, thereby reducing current impairment and future risk. Asthma control can be assessed serially by using validated instruments.
D.M. LANG

CONTINUED ON PAGE 615
Current Drug Therapy

Perioperative statins: More than lipid-lowering?

Soon, the checklist for internists seeing patients about to undergo surgery may include prescribing one of the lipid-lowering drugs called statins.

L.S. Feldman and D.J. Brotman

Review

What is the proper workup of a patient with hypertension?

If we were to launch an intensive workup for every patient with high blood pressure, the cost and effort would be enormous. Fortunately, accurate blood pressure measurement, a focused history and physical examination, and a handful of basic tests are often enough.

R. Katakam, K. Brukamp, and R.R. Townsend

IM Board Review

A case of refractory diarrhea

She has a history of irritable bowel syndrome, but could it be something more? A self-test on a clinical case.

J. Monti, J.H. Isaacson, and B. Lashner

Departments

Instructions for the Online CME test

CME Calendar