What is the role of probiotics in the treatment of acute Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea?

Overall, the evidence does not support using probiotics to treat Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea. More studies are needed to determine if they are helpful and, if so, which ones and at what dosages.

K. MILLER AND T. FRASER

**REVIEW**

Black esophagus

A 60-year-old man with gastrointestinal bleeding due to alcoholic cirrhosis has necrosis of the distal esophagus.

S. AKKINEPALLY, V. POREDDY, AND A. MORENO

**REVIEW**

Clinical approach to colonic ischemia

Ischemic colitis is one of the diagnoses that should be considered when patients present with abdominal pain, diarrhea, and intestinal bleeding.

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Painful eye with a facial rash
Six days ago, the patient had an intense headache; 4 days ago, painful herpetiform lesions appeared on his face. What is the diagnosis?

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A 48-year-old man with uncontrolled diabetes
His type 2 diabetes has been well controlled for 6 years. Now, his blood sugar levels have been rising for the past week, and he has large amounts of glucose and ketones in the urine. What has happened?

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Alternative modes of mechanical ventilation: A review for the hospitalist
Newer ventilators can be set to modes other than the pressure-control and volume-control modes of older machines. We review how they work and contrast their theoretical benefits and actual evidence of benefit.

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Letters to the editor
A reader comments about an article on the radiologic workup of a palpable breast mass (March 2009).

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