Evidence, limes, and cement 7

Sometimes, the results of clinical trials do not immediately affect what physicians do because the results do not jibe with experience.

B.F. MANDELL

Vertebroplasty, cognitive dissonance, and evidence-based medicine: What do we do when the ‘evidence’ says we are wrong?

Two recent trials call into question the efficacy of vertebroplasty for treating osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures and are leading many of us to question our assumptions about vertebroplasty.

R.D. ORR

Acetaminophen: Old drug, new warnings

Often, patients overdose because they take more than one acetaminophen product and are unaware that both products contain the drug.

A. SCHILLING, R. COREY, M. LEONARD, AND B. EGHTESAD

Lesions on the hands, high aminotransferase levels

A 64-year-old man presents with a 10-day history of painful vesicles and erosions on the dorsa of the hands that appeared after sun exposure. What is the diagnosis?

M. GIL-MOSQUERA, S VAÑO-GALVÁN, R. GOMEZ-GUERRA, P. JAÉN, AND M. GIL-MOSQUERA

FROM THE EDITOR

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REVIEW

Myelodysplastic syndromes: A practical approach to diagnosis and treatment

The myelodysplastic syndromes are clonal bone marrow disorders that lead to underproduction of normal blood cells. Primary care physicians tend to be the first to identify the problem.

A. BARZI AND M.A. SEKERES

IM BOARD REVIEW

Abdominal pain in a 20-year-old woman

Her body mass index is 18.7, and she has lost 20 lb despite a good appetite. What is the cause?

L.S. PASUMARTHY, D.E. AHLBRANDT, AND J.W. SROUR

REVIEW

Food allergy and eosinophilic esophagitis: Learning what to avoid

What we know about the mechanisms of food allergies and eosinophilic esophagitis, how to diagnose them, and how to treat them.

S. HONG AND N.M. VOGEL

1-MINUTE CONSULT

Should we routinely screen for hypercapnea in sleep apnea patients before elective noncardiac surgery?

Yes. Obesity hypoventilation syndrome is often undiagnosed and greatly increases perioperative risk.

B. MOKHLESI, L. SAAGER, AND R. KAW