The complexes of vitamin D

Patients with conditions as diverse as systemic lupus erythematosus and congestive heart failure seem to fare worse if they have lower vitamin D levels. But the seeming simplicity of this association belies several levels of complexity, with resultant clinical controversies.

B.F. MANDELL

1-MINUTE CONSULT

Does vitamin D deficiency play a role in the pathogenesis of chronic heart failure? Do supplements improve survival?

Vitamin D deficiency may play a role in the pathogenesis of chronic heart failure, but whether giving patients supplements improves their survival is not clear.

V. HAJJAR, J.P. DEPTA, AND M.M. MOUNTIS

THE CLINICAL PICTURE

A rash on the legs and palms

The patient has been treated with topical and oral corticosteroids with no improvement. What is the most likely diagnosis?

J.M. BERLIN AND S.M. GOLDBERG

THE CLINICAL PICTURE

A rare complication of infective endocarditis

An 85-year-old woman presents with a 2-hour history of dyspnea, diziness, generalized weakness, nausea, and diaphoresis. What is the cause?

M.J. DEKAM, J.P. DEPTA, AND A.M. LINCOFF

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Preventing and treating orthostatic hypotension: As easy as A, B, C

Easy-to-remember management recommendations, using a combination of effective drug and nondrug treatments.

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D.W. BARRY AND M.F. VAEZI

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