The complexities of vitamin D 288

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. HAJIAR, J.P. DEPTA, and M.M. MOUNTIS

THE CLINICAL PICTURE

A rash on the legs and palms 294

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

A rare complication of infective endocarditis 296

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. DIKAM, J.P. DEPTA, and A.M. LINCOTT

PREVENTING AND TREATING ORTHOSTATIC HYPOVENTILATION: As easy as A, B, C

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

J.J. FIGUEROA, J.R. BASFORD, and P.A. LOW

CONTINUED ON PAGE 287
Noninvasive positive pressure ventilation: Increasing use in acute care
How this mode has evolved, and its indications and contraindications in specific acute care conditions.
L.S. ABOUSSOUD AND B. RICAURTE

Making the most of currently available bowel preparations for colonoscopy
The authors review the available regimens, offer an algorithm for choosing an appropriate regimen, and provide instructions for patients.
A. ATREJA, S. NEPAL, AND B.A. LASHNER

Laryngopharyngeal reflux: More questions than answers
Most patients with suspected laryngopharyngeal reflux are given a 2-month trial of a proton pump inhibitor. Yet we still have little or no solid evidence on which to base the diagnosis or the treatment.
D.W. BARRY AND M.F. VAEZI

To receive CME credit, read any or all of the CME-certified articles in this issue (those that carry the CME logo), then go to www.ccjm.org to take the test for the article or articles you select. It should take up to 1 hour to complete the activity for each article.
Release date: May 1, 2010
Expiration date: April 30, 2011