The complexities 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. Mounits

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

A rare complication of infective endocarditis

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

M.J. DiKam, 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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Making the most of currently available bowel preparations for colonoscopy
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Release date: May 1, 2010
Expiration date: April 30, 2011