TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

When to stop treating the bones 563
Don’t let the argument about how long to treat osteoporosis with bisphosphonate drugs stand in the way of initiating therapy in patients at risk of fracture.
B.F. MANDELL

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

Accountable care organizations, the patient-centered medical home, and health care reform: What does it all mean?
Central to fixing the broken US health care system are two concepts: the patient-centered medical home and accountable care organizations.
D.L. LONGWORTH

REVIEW

Allergy blood testing: A practical guide for clinicians
These tests can confirm the diagnosis of an allergic disorder, supplementing the clinical history. They are particularly useful when skin testing cannot or should not be done.
R.I. SILES and F.H. HSIEH

THE CLINICAL PICTURE

Oral plaques and dysphagia in a young man 594
A 23-year-old man presents with oral plaques, a sore throat, dysphagia, malaise, and weight loss. What is the most likely diagnosis?
A.S. TULLY and C. DAO

REVIEW

Hepatic encephalopathy: Suspect it early in patients with cirrhosis
Prompt identification and treatment are essential, since the prognosis worsens rapidly once overt encephalopathy develops.
J. WAKIM-FLEMING
CONTINUED ON PAGE 568
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 564

THE CLINICAL PICTURE

Unmasking gastric cancer

Screening with diagnostic imaging may be justified in high-risk groups, although the issue is debatable.

F. ALTAHAWI, A.H. ALRAIYES, AND M.C. ALRAIES

Venous thromboembolism:

What to do after anticoagulation is started

Three issues need to be addressed: the length of therapy, measures to prevent postthrombotic syndrome, and a basic workup for possible underlying malignancy.

S. KAATZ, W. QURESHI, AND R.C. LAVENDER

CURRENT DRUG THERAPY

What is the optimal duration of bisphosphonate therapy?

It is reasonable to stop bisphosphonates after 5 years of use and then to follow patients with markers of bone turnover.

S.M. OTT

DEPARTMENTS

CME Calendar

Directions for taking CME tests online

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: September 1, 2011
Expiration date: August 31, 2012

SEPTEMBER 2011

UPCOMING FEATURES

Dabigatran (Pradaxa)
Will it change clinical practice?

Bioidentical hormones:
Clarifying misconceptions

Intensive care update:
Recent studies

Acute aortic dissection:
Recognizing a serious diagnosis

When sleep is
out of sync with the sun

Recognizing, addressing
racial disparities in health care

HPV testing:
Improving on the success of the Pap test

Nocturia in the elderly:
A wake-up call