In This Issue of JAMA

Research

Sertraline for Depression in Chronic Kidney Disease

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as sertraline, may be less effective in patients with chronic medical conditions than in the general population. In a randomized trial of 201 patients with non–dialysis-dependent chronic kidney disease (CKD) and major depressive disorder, Hedayati and colleagues found that treatment with sertraline compared with placebo did not significantly improve depressive symptoms. In an Editorial, Walther and colleagues recommend that therapies found to be effective in the general population should also be tested in patients with CKD before clinicians can be confident of benefit.

Editorial 1876
CME jamanetwork.com/learning

Oral Insulin for the Prevention of Type 1 Diabetes

Studies have suggested that treatment with oral insulin might slow the progression of type 1 diabetes. Krischer and colleagues randomized 389 participants with at least 2 autoantibodies and normal glucose tolerance and found that oral insulin, compared with placebo, did not delay or prevent the development of abnormal glucose tolerance.

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Treatments for Malignant Pleural Effusion

Treatments for malignant pleural effusion can relieve symptoms but require hospital attendance and invasive pleural procedures. In a randomized trial of 146 patients with symptomatic malignant pleural effusion, Thomas and colleagues found that treatment with an indwelling pleural catheter vs talc pleurodesis resulted in fewer hospitalization days from treatment to death, but no differences in breathlessness or quality of life.

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Research (continued)

Predictive Value of Cardiac Troponin I 1913
Cardiac troponin assays are performed to rule out myocardial infarction in patients with suspected acute coronary syndrome. Chapman and colleagues conducted a systematic review of the performance of the cardiac troponin I assay across a range of troponin concentrations and concluded that a high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I concentration less than 5 ng/L identified patients at low risk of myocardial infarction or cardiac death within 30 days.

Clinical Review & Education

Genetic Proxies for the Risk of Disease 1925
In observational studies of disease outcomes, genetic variation can be analyzed to control for confounding. In this JAMA Guide to Statistics and Methods, Emdin and colleagues discuss the strengths and limitations of this technique.

Author Audio Interview jama.com CME jamanetwork.com/learning

Improving the Quality of Health Care for Veterans 1927
A recent article in JAMA Internal Medicine compared the performance of US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals with that of non-VA hospitals using Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Compare data. In this From the JAMA Network article, Atkins and Clancy discuss the VA's systematic emphasis on improving the health care of its patients.

Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Products 1929
This Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics discusses the use of pancreatic enzyme replacement products to improve digestion in patients with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, a complication of illnesses such as chronic pancreatitis or cystic fibrosis.

JAMA Network Audio
Podcasts from JAMA and The JAMA Network are available at sites.jamanetwork.com/audio/.

Editor’s Audio Summary
Howard Bauchner, MD, summarizes and comments on this week’s issue.

Author Interview
AUDIO Interview with Sekar Kathiresan, MD, coauthor of “Mendelian Randomization”

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