Patent Foramen Ovale and Perioperative Ischemic Stroke

During and after surgery and anesthesia, patients with patent foramen ovale may experience right-to-left shunting, hypercoagulability, and the formation of venous thromboemboli. A retrospective cohort study by Ng and colleagues of 150,198 adults undergoing noncardiac surgery with general anesthesia found that having a preoperatively diagnosed patent foramen ovale was associated with increased risk of perioperative ischemic stroke. In an Editorial, Kasner and Messe recommend further research on the causes of stroke in this common clinical setting.

Oral Anticoagulants and Intracerebral Hemorrhage

Non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants are increasingly used as alternatives to warfarin to prevent thromboembolic complications in patients with atrial fibrillation. In a retrospective cohort study of 141,311 patients with intracranial hemorrhage, Inohara and colleagues found that the risk of in-hospital mortality was lower for patients treated with non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants than for patients treated with warfarin.

Prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Intrauterine exposure to alcohol is a major cause of developmental disability. May and colleagues evaluated 6639 first-grade children in 4 US communities and estimated the prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to range from 1.1% to 5.0%. In an Editorial, Lange and colleagues specifically recommend that girls and women of childbearing age avoid binge drinking, which can lead to unprotected sex, unplanned pregnancy, and long-term disability.
In This Issue of JAMA

Clinical Review & Education

Patient-Reported Outcomes in Clinical Trials

Patient-reported outcomes, such as symptoms and quality of life, can inform clinical decision making and influence health care policy. With the assistance of a task force of experts in clinical trial research, Calvert and colleagues and the SPIRIT-PRO Group developed a guideline for analyzing patient-reported outcomes in clinical trials. In an Editorial, Mehran and colleagues discuss barriers to the study of outcomes that matter to patients.

- Editorial 450
- CME jamanetwork.com/learning

Oversedation of a Patient With Obstructive Sleep Apnea

This article in the JAMA Performance Improvement series explores the case of a patient with obstructive sleep apnea who had a cardiac arrest after sedation for magnetic resonance imaging. Blay and colleagues discuss the clinical management of patients who may be at increased risk of adverse events during sedation for diagnostic studies.

- Audio Clinical Discussion jama.com  CME jamanetwork.com/learning

Evaluation of Thrombocytopenia During Heparin Therapy

This JAMA Diagnostic Test Interpretation article by Shen and colleagues presents a 45-year-old man with a new thrombosis after surgery for mesenteric ischemia who was found to have a 4Ts score of 6. How would you interpret this result?

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CME Credit

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Editor's Audio Summary

Howard Bauchner, MD, summarizes and comments on this week's issue.

Clinical Discussion

- AUDIO Experts Joshua Pevnick, MD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and Jason R. Farrer, MD, Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, discuss "Oversedation of a Patient With Obstructive Sleep Apnea Prior to Imaging" by Blay and colleagues

Nursemaid’s Elbow

(Elbow Subluxation)

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