Physical Therapy vs Surgery for Meniscal Tears

Arthroscopic partial meniscectomy is among the most frequently performed procedures in orthopedic surgery, but some evidence suggests that physical therapy may have a similar long-term benefit. Van de Graaf and colleagues for the Escape Research Group randomized 321 patients with nonobstructive meniscal tears and found that physical therapy was noninferior to arthroscopic partial meniscectomy for improving patient-reported knee function over 24-month follow-up. In an Editorial, Jazrawi and colleagues suggest that many patients with meniscal tears associated with degenerative osteoarthritis may respond to nonoperative treatment.

Racial Differences in Risk Factors for Hypertension

Understanding racial differences in the prevalence of risk factors for hypertension could guide efforts to reduce disparities in cardiovascular disease. Howard and colleagues followed 6897 black and white adults for a median of 9.4 years and found that Southern diet score, dietary ratio of sodium to potassium, and education level mediated racial differences in the incidence of hypertension.

Outcomes of Treatment for Subclinical Hypothyroidism

It is unclear whether thyroid hormone therapy is beneficial for subclinical hypothyroidism, defined as elevated thyroid-stimulating hormone with normal free thyroxine. In a meta-analysis of 21 trials with 2192 adults who had subclinical hypothyroidism, Feller and colleagues found that the use of thyroid hormone therapy was not associated with improvements in general quality of life or thyroid-related symptoms.
Clinical Review & Education

Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Control of rheumatoid arthritis can be achieved with disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, which reduce inflammation, improve physical function, and slow the progression of joint damage. Aletaha and Smolen review the clinical management of patients using a treat-to-target strategy.

Evaluation of an Adrenal Incidentaloma

This JAMA Diagnostic Test Interpretation article by Ospina and colleagues presents a 66-year-old man with an adrenal mass discovered during radiological evaluation for a reason other than suspected adrenal disease. Laboratory results indicated possible autonomous production of cortisol. What would you do next?

Ciprofloxacin Otic Suspension for Acute Otitis Externa

Topical antibiotic therapy is the treatment of choice for acute otitis externa, but a typical course of treatment is 7 to 10 days. This Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics discusses the efficacy and safety of a single dose of ciprofloxacin for acute otitis externa caused by Pseudomonas aeruginosa or Staphylococcus aureus.

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Editor’s Audio Summary
Phil B. Fontanarosa, MD, MBA summarizes and comments on this week’s issue.

Author Audio Interview
Evan Wood, MD, PhD, author of “Will This Hospitalized Patient Develop Severe Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome? The Rational Clinical Examination Systematic Review”

Audio Interview
Uma Valeti, MD, Memphis Meats, profiled in “Cardiologist Trades Stem Cells for Cell-Based Meat”

Visual Abstract
“Effect of Early Surgery vs Physical Therapy on Knee Function Among Patients With Nonobstructive Meniscal Tears: The ESCAPE Randomized Clinical Trial”

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