Adding Bempedoic Acid to Statin Therapy

Clinical guidelines recommend that patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) who do not achieve sufficient reductions in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) with statin therapy should also be treated with nonstatin agents. Goldberg and colleagues randomized 779 patients with ASCVD or familial hypercholesterolemia who were receiving maximally tolerated statins and found that the addition of bempedoic acid resulted in a significant lowering of LDL-C over 12 weeks. In an Editorial, Honigberg and Natarajan note that clinical guidelines have endorsed stringent LDL-C reduction for patients at high risk for ASCVD.

Survival Benefit of Heart Transplant Centers

In the United States, heart transplant centers select candidates for transplant and provide advanced therapies for heart failure. Parker and colleagues conducted a registry-based study of 29,199 heart transplant candidates and found that transplant center was associated with the survival benefit of transplant. In an Editorial, Sandhu and colleagues suggest that risk scoring and regionalization may improve the allocation of donor hearts.

Resynchronization for Chemotherapy-Induced Cardiomyopathy

Chemotherapy-induced cardiomyopathy (CHIC) with abnormal electrical activation of the ventricles has a poor prognosis. Singh and colleagues conducted a prospective cohort study of 30 patients with CHIC and found that cardiac resynchronization therapy was associated with improvement in left ventricular ejection fraction after 6 months. In an Editorial, Meijers and Moslehi suggest that future studies should identify cancer survivors who have an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease.
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Clinical Review & Education

Interpreting Articles About Machine Learning 1806
Machine learning algorithms are derived from patterns in sets of “training” data for the purpose of generating predictions. In this JAMA User’s Guide to the Medical Literature, Liu and colleagues discuss the validation and implementation of machine learning models for clinical medicine. In an Editorial, Doshi-Velez and Perlis discuss the potential usefulness of machine learning algorithms for certain clinical tasks.

Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease 1817
In this JAMA Clinical Guidelines Synopsis of a 2019 guideline developed by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, Jain and Davis discuss team-based, risk-centered approaches to the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease.

Clinical Management of Atrial Fibrillation 1819
The treatment of atrial fibrillation is based on a strategy of anticoagulation, rate control, and rhythm control. This Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics reviews therapeutic options for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.

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

Author Audio Interview
S. Claiborne Johnston, MD, PhD, author of “The Risk and Cost of Limited Clinician and Patient Accountability in Health Care”

Visual Abstract
“Effect of Bempedoic Acid vs Placebo Added to Maximally Tolerated Statins on Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol in Patients at High Risk for Cardiovascular Disease: The CLEAR Wisdom Randomized Clinical Trial”

Audio Interview
Sandip Mukherjee, MD, Yale New Haven Hospital, discusses atrial fibrillation.

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