Private Equity Acquisition of Dermatology Practices

Using a cross-sectional study, Tan and colleagues examined the acquisitions of dermatology practices in the United States by private equity-backed dermatology management groups. Results showed that between May 1, 2012, and May 22, 2018, 17 private equity-backed dermatology management groups acquired 184 dermatology practices, representing an estimated 38 credit dermatology clinics as of mid-2018. Additionally, the annual number of practice acquisitions during the study period increased every year, from 5 in 2012 to 59 in 2017, with a corresponding increase in the number of financing rounds required to sustain transactions. These results suggest that private equity firms have a financial stake in an increasing number of dermatology practices in the United States. Sharfstein and Slocum provide an Editorial.

Hidradenitis Suppurativa and Inflammatory Bowel Disease

In this systematic review and meta-analysis, Chen and Chi examined 8 studies with a total of 93601 participants that evaluated the odds or risk of inflammatory bowel disease in patients with hidradenitis suppurativa. Results showed that patients with hidradenitis suppurativa had a 2.12-fold increase in odds of having Crohn disease and a 1.51-fold increase in odds of having ulcerative colitis, providing evidence that hidradenitis suppurativa and inflammatory bowel diseases may be associated, which suggests that gastroenterologists should be consulted when patients with hidradenitis suppurativa develop recurrent symptoms such as abdominal pain or chronic diarrhea. Naik and Lowes provide an Editorial.

Antibiotic Treatment of Cellulitis and Erysipelas

Brindle and coauthors conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 43 studies with a total of 5999 participants to assess the efficacy and safety of antibiotic therapy for non-surgically acquired cellulitis. There was no evidence found that suggested superior efficacy of 1 antibiotic over any others in treating cellulitis, nor was there evidence that antibiotics with activity against methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus conferred an advantage over other antibiotics. Additionally, the use of intravenous over oral antibiotics and treatment courses longer than 5 days to treat cellulitis were not supported by evidence.

Survival With Single vs Multiple Primary Melanomas

El Sharouni and colleagues conducted a population-based cohort study of 56645 adults from the Netherlands with histologically determined primary invasive cutaneous melanoma to examine whether there was a difference in survival between patients with a single primary melanoma vs patients with multiple primary melanomas. Results showed that for multiple primary melanomas, Breslow thickness was significantly decreased compared with single primary melanomas, but patients with multiple melanomas were 31% more likely to die than patients with a single primary melanoma. The findings suggest that more strict follow-up strategies may be warranted for patients with multiple primary melanomas.