

In This Issue: August 4, 2020

Research

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

460 Effect of Convalescent Plasma Therapy on Time to Clinical Improvement in Patients With Severe and Life-threatening COVID-19: A Randomized Clinical Trial

L Li and Coauthors

This randomized trial compares the effects of convalescent plasma therapy with standard care vs standard care alone on time to clinical improvement among patients with severe or life-threatening COVID-19 disease in China.

Editorial **455**

JAMA Patient Page **524**

CME

471 Effect of Long-term Vitamin D₃ Supplementation vs Placebo on Risk of Depression or Clinically Relevant Depressive Symptoms and on Change in Mood Scores: A Randomized Clinical Trial

OI Okereke and Coauthors

This randomized clinical trial compares the effects of vitamin D₃ supplementation vs placebo on depression risk and mood scores in men and women aged 50 years or older.

CME

481 Association of Diagnosis Coding With Differences in Risk-Adjusted Short-term Mortality Between Critical Access and Non-Critical Access Hospitals

CM Kosar and Coauthors

This study uses Medicare data to estimate mortality differences for common medical conditions (pneumonia, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, urinary tract infection, others) at US critical access vs non-critical access hospitals between 2007 and 2017 with vs without adjustment for discharge diagnosis counts to assess the extent to which coding practices rather than illness severity might account for observed mortality differences.

Opinion

VIEWPOINT

435 Academic Medicine and Black Lives Matter: Time for Deep Listening

CW Yancy

437 Developing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine at Warp Speed

KP O'Callaghan, AM Blatz, and PA Offit

Viewpoint **439**

439 The Development of COVID-19 Vaccines: Safeguards Needed

N Lurie, JM Sharfstein, and JL Goodman

Viewpoint **437**

441 Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Theoretical Considerations and Available Evidence

M Klompas, MA Baker, and C Rhee

Audio

443 Communicating Science in the Time of a Pandemic

R Saitz and G Schwitzer

Editorial **453**

445 Challenges Estimating Total Lives Lost in COVID-19 Decisions: Consideration of Mortality Related to Unemployment, Social Isolation, and Depression

TJ VanderWeele

Related Article **507**

447 Behavioral Health Parity Efforts in the US

AD Carlo, BS Barnett, and RG Frank

449 Assessing Quantitative Comparisons of Health and Social Care Between Countries

MD Carlson, B Roy, and AS Groenewoud

Audio

A PIECE OF MY MIND

451 Eradicating Racial Injustice in Medicine—If Not Now, When?

RA Vince Jr

In this narrative medicine essay, a urology fellow offers 5 actions the medical community should take to eliminate racial injustice and health disparities in the United States.

Viewpoint **435**

EDITORIAL

453 Editorial Evaluation and Peer Review During a Pandemic: How Journals Maintain Standards

H Bauchner, PB Fontanarosa, and RM Golub

455 A Randomized Trial of Convalescent Plasma for COVID-19—Potentially Hopeful Signals

A Casadevall, MJ Joyner, and L-A Pirofski

Related Article **460**

JAMA Patient Page **524**

Online at JAMA.com

MULTIMEDIA

Editor's Audio Summary: Listen as editors discuss this week's issue

Author Audio Interview: Estimation of Excess Deaths From COVID-19 in the United States, March to May 2020

Audio Author Interview: Update on Congestive Heart Failure

Author Audio Interview: Coronavirus Update With CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, MD

Audio: Coronavirus Vaccine Development

Author Audio Interview: Update on Congestive Heart Failure

Author Audio Interview: Assessing Quantitative Comparisons of Health and Social Care Between Countries

Author Audio Interview: Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Theoretical Considerations and Available Evidence

Videos: Coronavirus Vaccine Development

Videos: Coronavirus Update With CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, MD

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

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DEPARTMENTS

Staff Listing **419**

CME Questions **506**

Recruitment Advertising **522**

Contact Information **523**

CORRECTION 519



Editor in Chief
Howard Bauchner, MD

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continued >

In This Issue: August 4, 2020

458 Mortality and Morbidity: The Measure of a Pandemic

JW Zylke and H Bauchner

Related Article 510

Audio

Clinical Review & Education

REVIEW

488 Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction: A Review

SP Murphy, NE Ibrahim, and JL Januzzi Jr

This narrative review summarizes the epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, management, and prognosis of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

Audio | CME

FROM THE MEDICAL LETTER ON DRUGS AND THERAPEUTICS

505 Tafamidis (Vyndaqel; Vyndamax) for Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy

This Medical Letter review describes how tafamidis prevents transthyretin protein complexes from disassociating into amyloid fibrils, and its recent approval in 2 different formulations (Vyndaqel and Vyndamax) for treatment of adults with transthyretin-mediated amyloid cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM).

JAMA PATIENT PAGE

524 Convalescent Plasma and COVID-19

AN Malani, JP Sherbeck, and PN Malani

This JAMA Patient Page describes the possible benefits of convalescent plasma transfusion in the treatment of COVID-19 as well as plasma donation eligibility criteria.

Editorial 455

Related Article 460

News & Analysis

MEDICAL NEWS & PERSPECTIVES

427 Taking a Closer Look at COVID-19, Health Inequities, and Racism

J Abbasi

This Medical News article is an interview with Chicago public health legend and retired physician Linda Rae Murray, MD, MPH, an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and a past president of the American Public Health Association.

Audio | Video

BENCH TO BEDSIDE

430 Virus Surveillance and Diagnosis With a CRISPR-Based Platform

T Hampton

THE JAMA FORUM

431 COVID-19 and Massive Job Losses Will Test the US Health Insurance Safety Net

L Levitt

NEWS FROM THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

433 Breast Cancer Drug Can Be Given at Home or in the Clinic

433 First-in-Class HIV Drug Is Approved

433 Immunotherapy Is Now First-line Therapy for Some Colorectal Cancers

Humanities

POETRY AND MEDICINE

520 Remains

SJ Sample

JAMA REVISITED

521 The Future of the Physician

Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

507 Mortality, Admissions, and Patient Census at SNFs in 3 US Cities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

ML Barnett and Coauthors

This study uses Medicare's Nursing Home Compare and a university long-term care database to compare census, admissions, discharges, and mortality at skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in 3 metropolitan areas during March-May 2020 vs March-May 2019.

Viewpoint 445

510 Excess Deaths From COVID-19 and Other Causes, March-April 2020

SH Woolf and Coauthors

This study uses data from the National Center for Health Statistics to estimate excess deaths (ie, the difference between observed and expected deaths) in the US and the District of Columbia in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Editorial 458

Audio

513 Prevalence, Characteristics, and Costs of Urgent Care Center Membership Programs

W Hsiang and Coauthors

This study uses simulated patient phone calls to a random selection of US urgent care clinics (UCCs) to describe the proportion that offer membership programs with access to discounted visits for recurring fees and the characteristics (affiliations, accreditations, population income) and fees and charges of those that do.

COMMENT & RESPONSE

Intravenous Interferon β -1a for Severe ARDS

515 X Zhou and G Tang

In Reply

515 G Belligan, VM Ranieri, and MK Karvonen

Research and Development Costs of New Drugs

516 LW Dominguez and JS Willis

516 B Dierynck and P Joos

517 JA DiMasi

In Reply

518 OJ Wouters, M McKee, and J Luyten

Errors in Trial of Effect of Convalescent Plasma Therapy on Time to Clinical Improvement in Patients With Severe and Life-threatening COVID-19

518 Z Liu

Related Article 460

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