

Research

Natriuretic Peptide–Guided Therapy for Heart Failure 713



Natriuretic peptides are markers of severity and prognosis in patients with heart failure. In a randomized clinical trial by Felker and colleagues of 894 adults with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction that was stopped early for futility, a strategy for adjusting therapy by levels of amino-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) was not more effective than usual care for improving clinical outcomes. In an Editorial, Fonarow attributes the lack of a difference in outcomes to the beneficial effects of guideline-based therapy received by the control group and suggests that if guidelines for the treatment of heart failure were closely followed, measurement of natriuretic peptides might not be necessary.

attributes the lack of a difference in outcomes to the beneficial effects of guideline-based therapy received by the control group and suggests that if guidelines for the treatment of heart failure were closely followed, measurement of natriuretic peptides might not be necessary.

Editorial 707

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Prednisolone for Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Infection 721

Oral or inhaled steroids are often prescribed to treat the symptoms of acute lower respiratory tract infection, which are similar to the symptoms of exacerbated asthma. In a randomized clinical trial of 398 patients from 54 family practices in England who were randomized to receive prednisolone tablets or placebo once daily for 5 days, Hay and colleagues found no differences in duration or severity of acute lower respiratory tract infection symptoms, duration of abnormal peak flow, antibiotic consumption, or nonserious adverse events.

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Ganciclovir for Adults With Critical Illness 731

In patients with immunosuppression or critical illness, reactivation of latent cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection is associated with worse clinical outcomes. Limaye and colleagues randomized 160 patients with sepsis or trauma and respiratory failure to receive ganciclovir prophylaxis or placebo. Ganciclovir was not found to reduce levels of interleukin 6, an inflammatory cytokine linked to CMV reactivation and mortality in other studies of clinically ill patients. In an Editorial, Kumar and Humar suggest that future studies of CMV prophylaxis should address clinical outcomes.

Editorial 709

CME jamanetwork.com/learning



Humanities

Poetry and Medicine

757 Listen to Your Body
CS Halberstadt

JAMA Revisited

758 Vaccine Treatment Again

Opinion

Viewpoint

695 What Is Medicaid?
More Than Meets the Eye
BD Sommers and DC Grabowski

697 Maintenance of Certification
and Texas SB 1148
DH Johnson

699 Gene Editing Using CRISPR
AL Komaroff

701 Time for Transparent Standards in
Quality Reporting by Health
Care Organizations
PJ Pronovost, AW Wu, and JM Austin

703 Multidimensional Evidence
Generation and FDA Regulatory
Decision Making
JP Jarow, L LaVange, and J Woodcock

A Piece of My Mind

705 Underprivilege as Privilege
SY Zhou

Editorial

707 Biomarker-Guided vs Guideline-
Directed Titration of Medical Therapy
for Heart Failure
GC Fonarow

709 Time to Consider Cytomegalovirus
Prevention in Critically Ill Patients?
D Kumar and A Humar

711 PCSK9 Inhibitors and the Choice
Between Innovation, Efficiency,
and Affordability
DB Mark and KA Schulman

LETTERS

Research Letter

748 Updated Cost-effectiveness
Analysis of PCSK9 Inhibitors Based on
the Results of the FOURIER Trial
DS Kazi and Coauthors

749 Medication-Assisted Treatment and
Opioid Use Before and After Overdose
in Pennsylvania Medicaid
W Frazier and Coauthors

Comment & Response

752 Dexamethasone Without
Antibiotics for Sore Throat

754 Water Exchange to Facilitate
Unsedated Colonoscopy

755 Bias Among Peer Reviewers

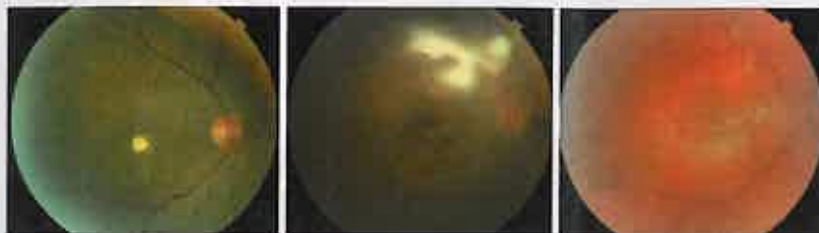
Editor in Chief
Howard Bauchner, MD

134 YEARS
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Clinical Review & Education

Endogenous Fungal Endophthalmitis

741



A recent article in *JAMA Ophthalmology* described a series of intravenous drug users with clinical findings of endogenous fungal endophthalmitis. In this From the JAMA Network article, Relhan and colleagues discuss the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of this visually impairing disease.

Treatment of Low Back Pain

743

Evidence-based management of low back pain can avert medical overuse and high health care expenditures. In this JAMA Clinical Guidelines Synopsis article, Wenger and Cifu discuss a recent update of a guideline developed by the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society that is based on duration of symptoms.

Screening for Depression

745

This JAMA Diagnostic Test Interpretation article by Hirschtritt and Kroenke presents a 57-year-old man with HIV disease, depression, and insomnia. His total score on the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 was 16. How do you interpret these results?



JAMA Patient Page

764 Groin Hernia Repair by Open Surgery

NEWS & ANALYSIS

Medical News & Perspectives

685 An International Human Cell Atlas Consortium Takes Shape

The JAMA Forum

687 Why It's So Hard for Insurers to Compete Over Technology

689 Health Agencies Update Even the Eye Has a Microbiome

Vaccines Protect Fetus From Zika

Open Access Data Tool for Cancer Research

690 Clinical Trials Update

Olaparib Increased Survival in Metastatic Breast Cancer

Home Monitoring Fails to Improve Glycemic Control

Exercise Therapy Offers Modest Benefits for Chronic Fatigue

Stereotactic Radiotherapy Is Superior for Benign Brain Tumors

Recombinant Influenza Vaccine More Effective in Older Adults

691 News From the CDC

Professional Jobs Linked With ALS and Parkinson Disease Deaths

Racial Disparities Remain in Breastfeeding Rates

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

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