

Letzte Seite

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Wonca Journal Watch

Synopses of articles from the medical literature relevant to family doctors, extracted from family medicine, general and specialist journals.

Intensive glucose lowering increases mortality

As compared with standard therapy, the use of intensive therapy to target normal glycated hemoglobin levels for 3.5 years increased mortality and did not significantly reduce major cardiovascular events. These findings identify a previously unrecognized harm of intensive glucose lowering in high-risk patients with type 2 diabetes.

- Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes Study Group. Effects of intensive glucose lowering in type 2 diabetes. *N Engl J Med.* 2008;358(24):2545–59. Available from: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/358/24/2545>

Incidence of incidental high grade prostate cancer increases with age

The researchers concluded: «This study provides insight into the prevalence of prostate adenocarcinoma and high grade prostate intraepithelial neoplasia in the general healthy population.»

- Yin M, Bastacky S, Chandran U, Becich MJ, Dhir R. Prevalence of incidental prostate cancer in the general population: a study of healthy organ donors. *J Urol.* 2008;179(3):892–5. Available from: [http://www.jurology.com/article/S0022-5347\(07\)02832-7/abstract](http://www.jurology.com/article/S0022-5347(07)02832-7/abstract)

Childhood depression often precedes alcohol abuse

Early manifestations associated with possible depressive conditions in childhood helped predict and account for subsequent alcohol involvement extending across life stages from childhood through young adulthood.

- rum RM, Green KM, Storr CL, Chan YF, Ialongo N, et al. Depressed mood in childhood and subsequent alcohol use through adolescence and young adulthood. *Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 2008;65(6):702–12. Available from: <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/65/6/702?etoc>

Many emergency department visits are related to medications

The researchers concluded: «More than 1 in 9 emergency department visits are due to drug-related adverse events, a potentially preventable problem in our health care system.»

- Zed PJ, Abu-Laban RB, Balen RM, Loewen PS, Hohl CM. Incidence, severity and preventability of medication-related visits to the emergency department: a prospective study. *CMAJ.* 2008;178(12):1563–9. Available from: <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/178/12/1563?etoc>

Tips for teachers of evidence based medicine

Published online on 20 May 2008 from the Journal of General Internal Medicine there is a clinical review, the first of a series, titled «Tips for teachers of evidence based medicine» by a number of authors from the Evidence-based Medicine Teaching Tips Working Group.

- McGinn T, Jervis R, Wisnivesky J, Keitz S, Wyer PC; for the Evidence-based Medicine Teaching Tips Working Group. Tips for Teachers of Evidence-based Medicine: Clinical Prediction Rules (CPRs) and Estimating Pretest Probability. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2008 May 20. [Epub ahead of print]. Available from: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/65w3126023267385>

Meta-analysis: its strengths and limitations

«Meta-analysis is an analytical technique designed to summarize the results of multiple studies. By combining studies, a meta-analysis increases the sample size and thus the power to study effects of interest. There are many caveats in performing a valid meta-analysis, and in some cases a meta-analysis is not appropriate and the results can be misleading.»

- Walker E. Meta-analysis: its strengths and limitations. *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine.* 2008;75(6):431. Available from: http://www.ccjm.org/ccjm_pdfs_toc/June08_Walker.pdf

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IMPRESSUM

Verlag
EMH Editores Medicorum Helveticorum
EMH Schweizerischer Arztverlag AG
Farnsbürgerstrasse 8,
CH-4132 Muttenz
Tel. +41 (0)61 467 85 55
Fax +41 (0)61 467 85 56
Website www.emh.ch

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Kollegium für Hausarztmedizin
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Allgemeinmedizin
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Innere Medizin
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Pädiatrie
Schweizerische Akademie für Psychosomatische und Psychosoziale Medizin

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Fax +41 (0)61 467 85 56
E-Mail: primary-care@emh.ch
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CHF 125.– (zuzüglich Porto)

Herstellung
Schwabe AG, Muttenz

ISSN 1424-3776

Erscheint 2008 20mal

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