

Evidence-Based Medicine

for Primary Care and Internal Medicine



www.evidence-basedmedicine.com

Editors: Brian Haynes & Paul Glasziou

Contents

Purpose and procedure	33	Review: 6 RCTs show similar efficacy and safety for continuous dosing and 28 day combination contraceptive pills	53
EBM notebooks		Review: lorazepam provides the best control for status epilepticus	54
Jottings...	34	Review: wearing graduated compression stockings during air travel reduces the risk of deep venous thromboembolism	55
The GATE frame: critical appraisal with pictures	35		
Teaching tip: balloons and teddy bears	39		
<i>Evidence-Based Medicine</i> —would you rather read 50 000 articles or 120?	40	Diagnosis	
Evidently...	41	Review: the Wells rule is more useful than individual clinical features for predicting risk of deep venous thrombosis	56
		The Wells rule was not useful in ruling out deep venous thrombosis in a primary care setting	57
Therapeutics		Review: medical history, physical examination, and routine tests are useful for diagnosing heart failure in dyspnoea	58
Amlodipine plus perindopril was better than atenolol plus bendroflumethiazide for reducing complications in hypertension	42	Prognosis	
Review: aspirin plus warfarin decreases cardiovascular morbidity with an increase in major bleeding in acute coronary syndromes	43	Male sex, first idiopathic deep venous thrombosis, and oral contraception were risk factors for recurrent venous thrombotic events	59
First line treatment with colchicine reduced recurrent pericarditis	44	Economics	
Review: long term anticoagulation reduces recurrent venous thromboembolism	45	Cognitive therapy in addition to standard care was more cost effective than standard care alone in bipolar disorder	60
Glargine dose titration by patients and physicians was equally effective for preventing severe hypoglycaemia	46	Clinical prediction guide	
Pioglitazone did not reduce macrovascular complications and increased HF in type 2 diabetes with macrovascular disease	47	The Canadian CT Head Rule reduced the need for CT scans more than the New Orleans Criteria in minor head injury	61
Review: self help interventions for smoking cessation are not effective unless tailored to the individual	48	Additional articles abstracted in ACP Journal Club	62
Identifying hospice-appropriate nursing home residents for physicians increased hospice referrals and enrolment	49	Other articles noted	63
A centralised telephone intervention reduced combined all cause mortality or admission for worsening HF in chronic heart failure	50	Glossary	Inside back cover
The 5 component acellular pertussis vaccine combined with tetanus and diphtheria toxoids was efficacious in adolescents and adults	51		
Parenteral artesunate reduced in-hospital mortality more than quinine in severe falciparum malaria	52		