Using data from electronic health records from a large health maintenance organization, the authors developed a model to predict the 5-year mortality or hospitalization risk for heart failure among 469 patients who had an echocardiogram and a heart failure diagnosis from 1999 to 2014. They observed a 56% five-year risk of death or hospitalization for heart failure. The simple model includes demographic characteristics, blood pressure, renal function, and anemia status. The observed risk was three times higher in the highest-risk quintile than in the lowest-risk quintile.


The immunization rates and health access measures of 109 children ages 24 to 48 months who had publicly funded health insurance (PFI) were compared with 350 children of the same age with private health insurance in the same medical practice. Children with PFI had lower rates of immunization and flu vaccinations; however, the differences were only significant in the cohort of children age 2 years and became similar by age 3 years.

30. Early Detection of Colon Cancer—The Kaiser Permanente Northwest 30-Year History: How Do We Measure Success? Is It the Test, the Number of Scans, the Stay, or the Percentage of Screen-Received Patients? David Weiss, MD, John Thompson, MD

This historical review of 3484 patients summarizes colorectal cancer screening strategies for 3 decades. The number of exams and dose–costs decreases does not accurately reflect the effectiveness of screening efforts. A better measure is the percentage of screen-detected cases. Using a good test able to reach more people rather than the “perfect test” that reaches fewer transforms an ineffective program to a successful one when the strategy moves from testing to screening.

40. Centering Parenting: Pilot Implementation of a Group Model for Teaching Family Medicine Residents Well-Child Care, Donna Mello, MD

Leaders in child health care recommend primary care physicians use a parent-centered approach, with a focus on the parent–child relationship in the context of family, culture, and community. The family medicine residency program at the University of California, San Francisco is testing a parent-centered group-care model that over a year allows residents to experience comparative developmental as well as interactions among a group of parents and children, and forges a stronger bond between physician and parent.

Implementation Strategy

42. Regional Expansion of Minimally Invasive Surgery for Hysterectomy: Implementation and Methodology in a Large Multiprofessional Group, et al., et al.

In the US each year, hysterectomy is the second most common major operation performed in women (600,000). This article reviews the steps that a large multiprofessional group used to teach non-open hysterectomy methods to improve the quality of care and decrease inappropriate procedures, and therefore costs. A structured educational intervention was delivered to 35 obstetric–gynecologists at 12 medical centers, and their 26,055 hysterectomies (2005-2010) were studied. The rate of non-open hysterectomies increased 120% (from 39% to 79%) and the average length of stay decreased 30%.
CASE STUDIES

61 A Case of an Abdominal Mass: Follicular lymphoma. Tina L Walker, MD; Gabriel E Lopez, MD

Follicular lymphoma (FL) is the second most common subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma usually affects older individuals (average 63.5 years). This report describes FL in a 38-year-old woman. These patients will likely present to their primary care physicians.

66 Does My Patient Have Asthma?

Eric Macy, MD, MS

A 57-year-old woman, initially seen in primary care, had diagnoses of steroid-dependent “asthma,” obesity, depression, reflux, sleep apnea, pollen allergy, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and prediabetes. The diagnosis of asthma should be confirmed by pulmonary function tests before and after bronchodilator use to document reversible airflow obstruction or should undergo a methacholine or mannitol challenge.

69 “Tranquil Journey on the Yangtze”

Mary T Shannon, MS, RN

The mail-in CME form can be found on page 95.

REVIEWS ARTICLES

48 Quality Measurement and Improvement in General Surgery.

Marisa Cevasco, MD, MPH; Stanley W Ashley, MD

Several sophisticated quality-measurement and outcomes systems have been developed including the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, the use of selective referral and centers of excellence, the Surgical Care Improvement Project, and the World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist. This article reviews each of these initiatives, highlights their contributions, and discusses future directions within general surgery.

54 New Technology Review Process: The Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Band. Sandra Arthurs, MS, BME; Yerado Abrahamian, MHS; Elizabeth Loughren, MPH; Jo Carol Haft, MD; Robin Cisneros; Jed Weissberg, MD

The Interregional New Technologies Committee (INTC) considers all available published evidence on a particular technology, surgical technique, or implantable device for a specific clinical indication and provides a recommendation on the sufficiency of the evidence for determining net medical benefit. This overview illustrates the INTC process and how it supports clinical decision making.

70 Suppressed Wound Healing In a Patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis Taking Leflunomide (Arava).

D Miller Wise, MD

Although patients with rheumatoid arthritis taking disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) are monitored for various medication adverse events, DMARDs, and leflunomide in particular, have effects that are not observed clinically, specifically adverse effects on wound healing.

75 ECG Diagnosis: Pulmonary Embolism.

Joel T Lewis, MD, PhD, FACEP, FAAEM

The S1Q3T3 sign (prominent S wave in lead I, Q wave and inverted T wave in lead III) is a sign of acute cor pulmonale (acute pressure and volume overload of the right ventricle because of pulmonary hypertension) and reflects right ventricular strain.

76 Image Diagnosis: Ultrasound in Right Lower Quadrant Pain.

L Paige Sokolsky, MD; Gus M Carmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

Doppler ultrasound is the imaging modality of choice as an enlarged, torsed ovary with peripherally displaced follicles because of vascular congestion. Because the ovary is supplied by both the ovarian and uterine arteries, a torsed ovary may have arterial flow, and medial displacement of the ovary compresses the uterus and bladder.

85 Bridging Physician-Patient Perspectives Following an Adverse Medical Outcome.

Mark Montijo, PhD; Kathleen Nelson, RN, MPA; Mark Scalfi, JD; Dave St Pierre, MPH; Dorothy Tarrant, LCSW, MPA; Jocelyne Vistan, MA; Maureen Whitmore, MA

During the course of physician-patient interactions in today’s increasingly complex health care environment, conflict inevitably arises. Physicians are held to very high standards, sometimes leaving them and their patients ill-equipped to cope with medical complications and unexpected outcomes. In the aftermath of an unanticipated adverse outcome, how health care professionals deal with errors has gained greater importance and attention.

EDITORIAL

89 Patient-Centered Research from Electronic Medical Records.

Mikel Aickin, PhD

Currently, perhaps the largest collection of unresolved or poorly resolved medical issues are the kinds patients present in primary care. A new electronic section of the journal, dedicated to publication of EMR-based research, is now open for article review. Encouraged article characteristics include: assessment of therapies as they are actually provided, inclusion of all relevant patients, and new analytic methods.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE

92 Humanity before Science: Narrative Medicine, Clinical Practice, and Medical Education.

Samar Johna, MD; Simi Rahman, MD

It appears from the available literature that Narrative Medicine may be the answer to the current crisis in the physician-patient relationship. Its impact extends well into physicians’ own wellness. Medical educators should consider incorporating narrative writings as early as medical school education and all the way into residency and fellowship education.

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39 “Angles and Edges”

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Karen C Kwock, RN

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