27 The Uncertainty Room: Strategies for Managing Uncertainty in a Surgical Waiting Room
Anne M Stone, PhD; Jeffrey A Weisz, MD with Susan Albers Mohrman and Arielle McCaughan
ISBN: 978-1936406412
Bozeman, MT: Second River Healthcare Press; 2012
Hardback $29.00

Diagnost Pathology and Molecular Genetics of the Thyroid: A Comprehensive Guide for Practicing Thyroid Pathology, 2nd edition
Yuri E Nikiforov, Paul W Biddinger; Lester DR Thompson
ISBN: 978-1451144595
Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; 2012
Hardcover 448 pages $225.00

ON THE COVER “Sunset, Botswana” by Stuart Hahn, MD, is a photograph taken from a hot air balloon while on a safari in the nation of Botswana. The color of the setting sun was reddened by smoke that filled the air due to fires burning in neighboring Namibia. Although his primary interest in traveling to Botswana was to photograph the wildlife, this landscape-type photograph could not be passed up.

Predicting Risk of Death in General Surgery Patients on the Basis of Preoperative Variables Using American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program Data
Sachen Vaid, MD; Ted Bell, MD; Reid Green, MD; Varsha Mihal, MD
From the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Project Participant Use Data File (2005 to 2008), a preoperative mortality predictor (PMP) was developed to determine which preoperative variables significantly were associated with death. Of the 296,801 patients analyzed, statistically significant variables predicting death were: impaired status, sapos, poor functional status, do-not-resuscitate directive, disseminated cancer, age, co-morbidities, sterile site, and weight loss. PMP score is an accurate, simple tool for predicting operative survival or death using only preoperative variables that are readily available at the bedside.

Patient Experience and Physician Productivity: Debunking the Mythical Corridor at HealthPartners Clinics
Tony J Belkin, DPM, FACFAS; Kerri L Thogmah, MBA; Sarah J Hendrick, MA; Christopher Ayres, MPH
It is a common presumption that higher productivity must entail a sacrifice in patient satisfaction or vice versa. For a large multispecialty medical and surgical practice, an observational study found discrete sets of common characteristics for physicians and staff in four quadrants of high/low productivity and high/low satisfaction. There are many physicians who excel in both high and low areas simultaneouly.

It’s a Great Time to be a Physician: Building a Healthcare System that Works
Jeffrey A Weiss, MD with Susan Albers Mohrman and Arielle McCaughan
ISBN: 978-1936406412
Bozeman, MT: Second River Healthcare Press; 2012
Hardback $29.00

No Germs Allowed! How to Avoid Infectious Diseases at Home and on the Road
Winkler G Weingarten, MD
ISBN: 9881353528
Winkler, NJ: Rutgers University Press; 2004
Paperback 848 pages $19.95

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For information and/or rates for placing an announcement here, please contact amy.r.eakin@kp.org.
Navigating Ethics of Physician-Patient Confidentiality: A Communication Privacy Management Analysis.

Sandra Petronio, PhD; Mark J DiCoccia, PhD; Ashley Duggan, PhD

Privacy boundaries are not always clear, and patients can leave an interaction with their physicians feeling uncomfortable about the security of their private medical information. A proposed model is presented as a tool for physicians to establish a confidentiality pledge that can address issues in understanding the best way to communicate about privacy management with patients and more likely overcome potential negative outcomes.

Evaluation and Management of Vertebral Compression Fractures.

Daniela Alexandru, MD; William So, MD

An estimated 1.5 million vertebral compression fractures occur every year in the US. They are common in elderly populations and affect 25% of postmenopausal women during their lifetime. This review provides information on the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of compression fractures. Among the available treatment options, kyphoplasty and percutaneous vertebroplasty are two minimally invasive techniques to alleviate pain and correct the sagittal imbalance of the spine.

Image Diagnosis: Ramsay Hunt Syndrome.

Minh Van Le, MD

A 68-year-old woman was diagnosed in the Emergency Department with left-sided Bell’s palsy, and treated with steroids. She returned two days later with left ear pain and swelling with an erythematous vesicular rash on the ear (zoster oticus). Earlier administration of steroids along with antivirals within 3 days of symptom onset results in 75% rate of full recovery.

ECG Diagnosis: Flecainide Toxicity.

Joel T Lewis, MD, PhD, FACEP, FAAEM

Adverse cardiac effects of flecainide acetate, a sodium-channel blocking, antiarrhythmic agent, include: negative inotropic action and depression of all major conduction pathways—manifested as a 50% increase in QRS duration or 30% prolongation in PR interval.

From Morbid Obesity to a Healthy Weight Using Cognitive-Behavioral Methods: A Woman’s Three-Year Process With One and One-Half Years of Weight Maintenance.

James J Annesi, PhD, FAAHB; Gisèle A Tennant, MSc

Although reduced-energy (kilocalorie) eating and increased exercise will reliably reduce weight, these behaviors have been highly resistant to sustained change. A woman, age 48 years, with morbid obesity initiated exercise through a 6-month exercise-support protocol based on social-cognitive and self-efficacy theory. During the 4.4 years reported, use of self-regulatory skills, self-efficacy, and overall mood significantly predicted both increased exercise and decreased energy intake. Morbid obesity was reduced to a healthy weight within 3.1 years, and maintained through the present (1.3 years later).

A Rhinitis Primer for Family Medicine.

Eric Macy, MD, MS, FAAAAI

There are four, often overlapping, syndromes or conditions that account for most of what patients perceive as “nose problems” or rhinitis: irritant rhinitis, the anterior nasal valve effect, migraine with vasomotor symptoms, and allergic rhinitis. Failure to consider all of the causes for the symptoms will result in poor clinical outcomes. The work-up and management of these common conditions is discussed in this article.

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