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Emergency Medicine in the Region: Merging with Other Specialties

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EDITORIAL

213 Emergency Medicine – Merging with Other Specialties: An Update
AH McDonald

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

217 The Compliance of Healthcare Workers with Universal Precautions in the Emergency Room at the University Hospital of the West Indies

K Watson, J Williams-Johnson, H Watson, C Walters, EW Williams, D Eldemire-Shearer

Due to the nature of interventions that unstable patients require, emergency room healthcare providers are at risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens. This study assessed compliance with universal precautions among healthcare workers in the emergency room.

226 A Clinical Audit of the Management of Acute Asthmatic Attacks in Adults and Children Presenting to an Emergency Department

S Dasgupta, EW Williams, C Walters, D Eldemire-Shearer, J Williams-Johnson

A prospective docket audit comparing the actual acute management of asthma in the emergency department of the University Hospital of the West Indies with a universally approved written protocol for its management is presented. Acute asthma management still remains an area of medical practice that continues to have long-standing difficulties.

234 Primary Care in the Emergency Department – An Untapped Resource for Public Health Research and Innovation

AM Brody, E Murphy, JM Flack, PD Levy Emergency departments are increasingly tasked with the management of patients who have chronic medical conditions. While this does present challenges to care coordination, it also provides an opportunity to define best practices and improve processes at the system level.

238 Differences and Similarities in Explanatory Models of Hypertension in the United States of America, Tanzania and Jamaica

JD Purakal, J Williams-Johnson, EW Williams, S Pemba, J Kambona, R Welch, J Flack, P Levy Health beliefs drive health behaviour, yet the health beliefs of racially similar but culturally divergent groups in regards to hypertension have yet to be explored. We examined the differences and similarities amongst racially "black" emergency department patients in the United States of America, Jamaica and Tanzania.

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247 Evaluation of Waiting Times and Sonographic Findings in Patients with First Trimester Vaginal Bleeding at the University Hospital of the West Indies. Can Emergency Department Ultrasound Make a Difference?

S French, T Henry, EW Williams

This retrospective study was conducted to evaluate how long pregnant female patients with vaginal bleeding in the first trimester wait for a pelvic ultrasound. The majority of patients had sonographic findings that would have allowed safe and timely discharge from the emergency department had ultrasound been available at the point of care.

252 A Survey of the Pain Management of Acute Painful Crisis among Patients with Sickle Cell Disease at Two Centres in Jamaica

R Augier, S Jenkins, S Bortolusso Ali, I Tennant, J Williams-Johnson, M Reid

Evidence suggests that acute painful crisis (APC) can be managed safely and effectively in the outpatient setting. This survey reviewed the management of APC at two outpatient centres on the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

258 The Impact of Trans-thoracic Ultrasound on Cardiac Injuries

JM Plummer, M Condell, D Ferron-Boothe, P Johnson, PA Leake, AH McDonald

Cardiac injuries remain lethal, diagnosis is largely clinical and transthoracic ultrasound may be over-utilized, having little impact on clinical outcome of patients presenting with this injury.

262 Stress, Burnout and Coping among Emergency Physicians at a Major Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica

TA Hutchinson, S Haase, S French, TA McFarlane

Emergency physicians at a major hospital in Kingston, Jamaica, scored high on stress and components of burnout. Interventions aimed at reducing the occupational contributors to stress and improving levels of coping will reduce the risk of burnout and enhance their psychological well-being.

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VIEWPOINT

267 Trauma in the Developing World: The Jamaican Experience

JM Plummer, D Ferron-Boothe, N Meeks-Aitken, AH McDonald

Ten-year data from the Jamaica Trauma Registry shows that trauma accounts for 20% of surgical admissions, with 5% mortality.

271 A Case for a Holistic Approach to the Improvement of Compliance among Hypertensive Patients: A Hospital Review

M Gossell-Williams, J Williams-Johnson, EW Williams, P Levy

A recent survey of hypertensive patients at the Emergency Department of the University Hospital of the West Indies revealed that more than a third were non-compliant with their prescribed medications and more than half had poorly controlled blood pressure. Providing access to drug is inadequate and a more holistic approach is required to reduce blood pressure at the population level.

CASE REPORTS

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- 278 Horner's Syndrome: A Case Report and Review of the Pathophysiology and Clinical Features
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