

105 EDITORIAL

Research Ethics Committees: Preserving Research Integrity and the Public Trust AM Mullings

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

108 Patient Satisfaction and Quality of Life among Persons Attending Chronic Disease Clinics in South Trinidad, West Indies

C Joseph, S Nichols

Patient satisfaction and quality of life among regular public clinic attendees were investigated. The findings suggest that satisfaction with clinic experiences, and number of illnesses were independently associated with quality of life.

115 A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study of the Issues of Climate Change/Variability Impacts and Public Health in Trinidad and Tobago, and St Kitts and Nevis

SC Rawlins, A Chen, JM Rawlins, DD Chadee, G Legall

A survey was conducted in Trinidad and Tobago and in St Kitts and Nevis to determine the levels of understanding of the issues of climate variability/change affecting dengue fever (DF) and its transmission. Climate variability issues such as seasonal variation affecting DF and its vector production are well apprciated, but use of this information in an early warning programme to prevent DF transmission are not yet in use by the communities.

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122 Effects of Depression and Anxiety on Quality of Life of Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Knee Osteoarthritis and Fibromyalgia Syndrome

A Ozcetin, S Ataoglu, E Kocer, S Yazici, O Yildiz, A Ataoglu, C Icmeli

In this study, the effects of anxiety and depression on quality of life were measured in 154 patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, knee osteoarthritis and fibromyalgia syndrome. Quality of life was observed to decrease in patients whose depression and/or anxiety scores were high. The necessity of a multidisciplinary approach including psychiatric support is emphasized for these patients.

130 Antinuclear Antibodies and HLA Class II Alleles in Jamaican Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

N Christian, MF Smikle, K DeCeulaer, L Daniels, MJ Walravens, EN Barton

A cross-sectional study in which DNA HLA typing methods were used to investigate the associations between HLA and class II alleles and the presence of systemic lupus erythematosus and antinuclear antibodies (ANA) in Jamaicans. The HLA associations with ANA were similar to those found in other ethnic groups, but no significant positive HLA association with SLE was found.

(Continued on inside front cover)

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134 Sensitivity and Specificity of the Electrocardiogram in Predicting the Presence of Increased Left Ventricular Mass Index on the Echocardiogram in Afro-Caribbean Hypertensive Patients TC Martin, YG Bhaskar, KV Umesh

In an Afro-Caribbean population of 111 treated hypertensive patients, electrocardiographic left ventricular hypertrophy by any criterion was seen in 42% of patients and increased left ventricular mass index on echocardiogram was seen in 50% of patients. The sensitivity of various left ventricular scoring systems of the electrocardiogram for predicting increased left ventricular mass index was 3 to 31%, the specificity 80 to 96%. The echocardiogram may be the tool of choice for predicting cardiovascular risk in the hypertensive Afro-Caribbean patient.

139 Characteristics, Treatment and Short-term Survival of Patients with Heart Failure in a Cardiology Private Practice in Jamaica GR Lalljie, SE Lalljie

A retrospective analysis of outpatients with heart failure revealed rates of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and β blocker use similar to those achieved in recent randomized trials. Short-term survival was high.

144 An Evaluation of the Intensive Care Unit Resources and Utilization in Trinidad

S Hariharan, D Chen, L Merritt-Charles, N Bobb, L De Freitas, A Esdelle-Thomas, J Mohamed, D Charles, K Colley, E Renaud This prospective observational study evaluated the Intensive Care Units of three public and two private hospitals in Trinidad and Tobago with respect to their infrastructure, process of care and patient outcome.

152 Childhood Sexual Abuse among Outpatients Attending Adult Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics: A Case-Control Study

NS Baboolal, S Lalla, M Chai, R Curtis, C Nandwani, L Olivier, C Smith

This case control study examines the association between self-reported childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and psychopathology in patients seeking treatment at adult psychiatric outpatient clinics in Trinidad. Abused psychiatric outpatients were more likely to have reported an

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earlier onset of CSA, repeated episodes of CSA, vaginal and anal intercourse, and limited social support compared to abused controls.

159 Mammographic Referral Patterns for two Breast Imaging Units in Jamaica

D Soares, K Kirlew, P Johnson, M Reid

Mammographic screening has been shown to reduce death rates from breast cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths in Jamaican women. This paper explores differences in screening referral patterns in a rural versus urban setting in Jamaica.

163 Towards Research Equity – Challenges of Safety Monitoring During Clinical Trials in Resource-Limited Settings

J Van den Broeck, AKL Robinson

Difficulties with safety monitoring during clinical trials in less-industrialized countries have hampered global research equity. Re-discussion of objectives and methods of safety monitoring and adapted general clinical practice guidelines may contribute to greater participation of these countries in the clinical trials industry.

166 Congenital Toxoplasmosis in Two Health Institutions in Trinidad

AA Adesiyun, R Gooding, K Ganta, N Seepersadsingh, S Ramsewak

Serological evidence of congenital toxoplasmosis was demonstrated in the cord blood of newborns in Trinidad. The health risk to these children cannot be ignored.

171 Changing the Research Culture at the Section of Psychiatry, The University of the West Indies, Mona RC Gibson, KAD Morgan, WD Abel, FW Hickling A significant increase in research output followed the

implementation of research meetings as well as team building and project management strategies, all aimed at strengthening research activities in a section of a university department.

CASE REPORTS

- **178 The Lungs in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex** NC Iheonunekwu, TM Ibrahim, BD Crosdale, RH Gangappa
- 182 Insulinoma Induced Hypoglycaemia in a Jamaican Patient

S Chin, V Popat, MS Boyne, C Cochran, M Tulloch-Reid

187 Synchronous Carcinoid Tumour of the Small Intestine and Appendix in the Same Patient Y Erbil, U Barbaros, Y Kapran, BT Yanik, A Bozbora, S Özarmağan

DENTAL FORUM

190 Periodontal Disease Severity and Systemic Diseases Prevalent in a Caribbean Catchment Area of Patients

M Soory

Patients attending King's College London, United Kingdom, were screened for periodontal disease and co-existing cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, arthritis and a smoking habit. A significant proportion of patients with severe periodontal disease had coexisting systemic disease and were smokers.

194 Forthcoming Meetings

195 Instructions to Authors