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79 EDITORIAL

Suicide: A Preventable Public Health Problem

WD Abel, JS Martin

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

81 Age-Specific Incidence of Cancer in Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica, 1998 – 2002

TN Gibson, G Blake, B Hanchard, N Waugh, D McNaughton

Cancer registrations in Kingston and St Andrew (1998–2002) have revealed that the leading cancers in males and females are prostate and breast, respectively. Colon cancer exhibits a high incidence in both genders, underscoring the need for local screening programmes.

90 Clinicopathologic Features of Breast Disease in Jamaica: Findings of The Jamaican Breast Disease Study, 2000–2002

SE Shirley, DIG Mitchell, DP Soares, M James, CT Escoffery, AM Rhoden, C Wolff, L Choy, RJ Wilks
The majority of patients presenting with breast disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies are young women with clinically benign disease. A low prevalence of clinically significant premalignant disease supports the need for improved breast cancer screening in the population.

95 Trends in the Prevalence of Adolescent Births in Antigua and Barbuda over 35 Years

TC Martin, B Doyle, J Raphael

Over 35 years in Antigua and Barbuda, there has been a 42% fall in births to teenage mothers and a 53% fall in births to school-aged teens. The decrease has been sustained over 15 years. Economic, educational, social and medical changes may all have played a role.

101 Urinary Tract Infection in Neonates with Serious Bacterial Infections Admitted to the University Hospital of the West Indies

M Barton, Y Bell, M Thame, A Nicholson, H Trotman
Urinary tract infection is an important cause of serious bacterial infection in neonates affecting 1 in 3 babies with proven bacterial infection and may be the first indicator of underlying structural abnormalities. The absence of specific distinguishing clinical features makes it necessary to include urine cultures in the sepsis evaluation of neonates presenting with symptoms suggestive of sepsis.

106 Activity of Amikacin, Ertapenem, Ciprofloxacin and Levofloxacin alone and in Combination against Resistant Nosocomial Pathogens by Time-Kill

M Hosgor-Limoncu, S Ermertcan, H Tasli, AN Yurtman

The purpose of this study was to determine the synergistic activity of amikacin, ertapenem and fluoroquinolones combinations against resistant nosocomial pathogens. The antibiotic combinations showed additive or synergistic activity against many of the Gram-negative pathogens.

(Continued on inside front cover)

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WN Gibbs 1996–1999

Continued from front cover

112 Utilization Pattern and Cost of Sedation, Analgesia and Neuromuscular Blockade in a Multidisciplinary Intensive Care Unit

S Hariharan, G Pillai, D Chen, S Soogrim, J Nelson, R Tsoi-a-Fatt, K Mohan, V Boodhai

This prospective study highlights the utilization pattern and financial burden of the paradigm of sedation, analgesia and neuromuscular blockade in an intensive care unit. Cost for this treatment alone accounts for more than 50% of the total drug cost in the intensive care unit.

118 Systemic Sclerosis in an Afro-Caribbean Population: A Review of Demographic and Clinical Features

C Flower, C Nwankwo

A review of 27 Afro-Caribbean patients with systemic sclerosis illustrates a female preponderance and a younger age of onset than that described for Caucasians, Hispanics and Afro-Americans. There was a tendency to develop diffuse disease and telangiectasia occurred more frequently than is thought typical in black patients

122 Mortality Trends and Potential Years of Life Lost in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean: 1985–2000

MA Ivey, G Legall, EV Boisson, A Hinds

During the period 1985–2000, while there was an overall 5% decrease in age-adjusted mortality rates in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean islands, there was an increase in mortality due to non-communicable diseases, AIDS and assaults (homicides).

132 Acetaminophen Overdose in Jamaica

MO Mills, MG Lee

Forty-nine cases of parasuicide attempts involving acetaminophen in Jamaica were analyzed. The mean age was 23 years and 84% were women. Acetaminophen only was ingested in 71% of cases and 29% involved an additional drug. Patients presented an average of 6.5 hours after ingestion. Serum transaminases were elevated in 18% and mean duration of hospitalization was three days. One patient developed liver failure and there were no deaths.

Continued on Inside Back Cover

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Continued from inside front cover

135 Evaluation of the Validity of the Quality of Well-being Scale in Trinidad and Tobago

RD Hector, JP Anderson, RCP Paul, N Ponce, RD Hays, RE Weiss, RM Kaplan

A generic health-related quality of life measure, the Quality of Well-being Scale (QWB), demonstrated validity in Trinidad and Tobago. Local decision-makers may use the QWB to compare health effects of different conditions, interventions and policies.

141 The Impact of Gender, Family and Type of School on Smoking in Adolescents in Eyup, Istanbul, Turkey

F Talay, S Altin

This is a cross-sectional study on 1062 students from eight high schools to determine the influence of smoking habits, education of family, parents, the type of school and gender on smoking in adolescents.

147 White Blood Cell Counts in Healthy Jamaican Adults

NE Urquhart, KD Capildeo, LA Sargeant, G Wharfe, M Hisada, B Hanchard

The normal range of white blood cell count in Jamaican and Afro-Caribbean adults is lower than that for Caucasian adults.

152 Market Survey of Loiasis: Prevalence and Adverse Reactions to Ivermectin Using a Rapid Procedure for Loiasis

CA Ibidapo, B Akinsanya, GO Adeoye, AO Otubanjo, P Okeke, J Okwuzu, EO Adejai, E Braide

Prevalence of loiasis was assessed in some village markets in Ondo State, South West Nigeria, using the rapid procedure for loiasis technique. Among 480 respondents, 80 (16.7%) had a history of loiasis, 11 (2.3%) had recent occurrence of the disease and 04 (0.83%) experienced adverse reactions to ivermectin treatment.

157 Diagnosis of Behçet's Disease in a Non-endemic Region: The Utility of the Urate Skin Test

C Flower

The urate skin test may add a level of diagnostic specificity to Behçet's Disease

161 The Evolution of Emergency Medicine in Jamaica

EW Williams, J Williams-Johnson, AH McDonald, S French, R Hutson, P Singh, J Sadock, R Butchey, M Ellis, C Thompson, K Espinosa

The evolution of emergency medicine in Jamaica over the past two decades is described. There is room for improvement in many areas including pre-hospital care, trauma and disaster preparedness.

DENTAL FORUM

166 Single Photon Emission Computerized Tomography and Histological Evaluation in the validation of a new technique for Closure of oro-antral communication: An Experimental Study in Pigs

CO Ogunsalu, M Rohrer, Hari Persad, A Archibald, J Watkins, H Daisley, C Ezeokoli, A Adogwa, L Curtis, O Khan

The Sandwich Technique for closure of oro-antral communication results in vascularized new bone formation which eventually osseointegrates with surrounding bone.

CASE REPORTS

173 Subclinical Hyperthyroidism Presenting with Bradycardia-Associated Syncope

AT Alper, H Hasdemir, A Akyol, N Cakmak

175 Delayed Development of a Biloma in an Infant Following Hepatic Injury

TI Anatol, P Maharaj, S Gardner, J Leach

178 A Case of Pathological Rib Fractures: Focal Osteolysis or Osteoporosis?

TSL Vrbanić, S Novak, B Sestan, A Tudor, G Gulan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

182 Changes in the Divorce and Birth Rates Correlate with the Suicide Rate in Japan

K Inoue, H Tanii, T Fukunaga, M Nata, H Kaiya, Y Nishimura, A Nishida, K Kajiki, Y Okazaki

183 The Correlation Between Unemployment and Suicide Rate in Gifu Prefecture, Japan

K Inoue, H Tanii, Y Okazaki, H Kaiya, T Fukunaga

184 Present and Future Subjects of Suicide-related Reports in Japan

Y Fujita, K Inoue, H Tanii

185 Forthcoming Meetings