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Special Issue on Sickle Cell Disease

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REVIEWS

457 **Jamaica and Research in Sickle Cell Disease**

GR Serjeant, BE Serjeant

Many developments have occurred in sickle cell disease and care over the last 50 years in Jamaica. The clinic population grew from 50–60 in the mid-1960s to 5500 in late 1999. During this period, the number of staff serving sickle cell patients increased from 2 to 28, comprising physicians, paediatricians, nurses, laboratory technologists, social workers, computer staff and statisticians. The physical facilities have improved greatly, and data management has evolved from the typewritten long narrow paper strips in the late 1960s to sophisticated electronic patient management systems. The many physical resources and the superb opportunities of an 'island laboratory' have provided a unique basis for clinical research into the disease.

469 **Perioperative Management of Paediatric Patients with Sickle Cell Disease**

KJ Sullivan, J Dayan, M Reichenbach, M Irwin, A Pitkin, C Gauger, SR Goodwin, N Kissoon
Perioperative care of children with sickle cell disease is associated with adverse outcomes. In concert with haematology consultants, surgeons,

anaesthesiologists and intensivists, there are optimized perioperative outcomes with meticulous preoperative preparation, intra-operative management and postoperative care.

478 **Blood Transfusion in the Caribbean: A Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago**

KS Charles

This article uses the case of Trinidad and Tobago to examine the history and current state of blood transfusion services in the Caribbean and to present early results of an initiative for improving blood safety and adequacy in the region.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

486 **Prevalence of Sickle Cell Disease among Newborns in St Vincent and the Grenadines: A Retrospective Study**

S Williams, B Browne, S Reed, S Taylor, A Summer, J Kanter

This is a retrospective study to determine the prevalence of sickle cell disease among live births in St Vincent and the Grenadines. The results of this study indicate a birth prevalence that is similar to the published data from the other Caribbean islands.

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- 491 Epidemiology of Sickle Cell Disease in Grenada: A comparison with Haiti, Jamaica and the United States of America**
M Nalbandian, H Kaminsky, P Baghdasaryan, D Keleny, K Nalbandyan, TO Jalonen
This study estimates the average prevalence, case-fatality rate and cause-specific mortality rate of sickle cell disease in Grenada, West Indies, and compares the epidemiology to that in the United States of America and elsewhere in the Caribbean.
- 497 Radiological Abnormalities and Asymptomatic Bacteriuria in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease**
BF Morrison, D Cornwall, W Madden, P Johnson, M Didier, M Reid
This study investigates the association between radiological abnormalities and asymptomatic bacteriuria in patients with sickle cell disease. No association was seen, and there was no increased risk of symptomatic urinary tract infections in these patients.
- 503 Characterization of Neuropathic Pain in Sickle Cell Disease**
M Nalbandian, H Kyotakoze, H Kaminsky, D Keleny, P Baghdasaryan, A McDonald, T Erwes, T Mylläri, K Nalbandyan, TO Jalonen
This study seeks to identify the amount of nociceptive, affective and neuropathic pain components in sickle cell disease (SCD) in Grenada, West Indies. Characterization of pain in SCD will contribute to increased awareness and promote the development of adequate and effective pain management guidelines.
- 510 A Cross-sectional Clinic-based Study Exploring whether Variants within Genes Coding for Enzymes of the Transmethylation and Trans-sulphuration Pathways Are Associated with Inter-individual Phenotypic Variation in Sickle Cell Anaemia in Jamaica**
S Howell, K Marshall, M Reid, N McFarlane-Anderson, C McKenzie
This cross-sectional study explored and generated novel and usable estimates of association between variants within genes underlying the transmethylation and trans-sulphuration pathways and inter-individual phenotypic variation in sickle cell anaemia.
- SHORT COMMENTARY**
- 518 Effect of Hydroxyurea on Priapism in Men with Sickle Cell Disease**
BF Morrison, P Hamilton, M Reid
This report represents a retrospective case series of males with sickle cell disease who had recurrent episodes of ischaemic priapism and were being treated with hydroxyurea for other indications. The authors evaluated the changes in priapism episodes in these patients.
- LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
- 521 A Note on the Prevalence of Impatience in Jamaica**
GR Serjeant