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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

315 Investigation of the Blood Glucose Lowering Potential of the Jamaican *Momordica charantia* (Cerasee) Fruit in Sprague-Dawley Rats

A Burnett, M-L McKoy, P Singh

*The blood glucose lowering potential of aqueous fruit extracts of the Jamaican plant species (*Momordica charantia*) was investigated in Sprague-Dawley rats. The extract showed no hypoglycaemic or antidiabetic activity. However, there was improvement in glucose tolerance of glucose-primed normoglycaemic rats during oral glucose tolerance test.*

320 Preliminary Investigations of the Anti-asthmatic Properties of the Aqueous Extract of *Justicia pectoralis* (Fresh Cut)

C Cameron, AS Jacob, EA Thomas, AS Levy

**Justicia pectoralis* is commonly used in Jamaica as a tea preparation to alleviate the difficulty in breathing in asthmatic individuals. This study investigated its effects on tracheal contraction and allergic wheals in the dermis.*

325 Performance Assessment of the Polymerase Chain Reaction-Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism Method for Rapid Detection of Susceptibility to Ethambutol and Molecular Prediction of Extensively Drug-resistant Tuberculosis in Clinical Isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

M Arjomandzadegan, R Nazari, MR Zolfaghari, M Taherahmadi, M Sadrnia, LP Titov, A Ahmadi, M Shojapoor

Fast detection of susceptibility to ethambutol drug is possible by polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism. The embB306 locus is a candidate marker for rapid prediction of high resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs for multidrug and extensively drug resistant forms of tuberculosis.

333 Atherosclerosis and Liver Function Tests in Coronary Angiography Patients

YC Doganer, JE Rohrer, U Aydogan, DC Agerter, T Cayci, C Barcin

This cross-sectional study hypothesized the possibility that liver function test variations in the normal range might be meaningfully associated to coronary artery disease.

338 Study of Sex Hormone-binding Globulin Gene Polymorphism and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Egyptian Men

SA El Tarhouny, SS Zakaria, AM Abdu-Allah, KM Hadhoud, MI Mahmoud, OM Al Nozha

Sex hormone-binding globulin gene polymorphisms are associated with higher risk of Type 2 diabetes mellitus in Egyptian men, through lowering circulating

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levels of sex hormone-binding globulin and consequently lowering testosterone and elevating oestradiol levels, which may be linked to insulin resistance.

344 Spatial Distribution of Epidemiological Cases of Dengue Fever in Suriname, 2001–2012

D Hamer, M Lichtveld

Retrospective epidemiological data were used to characterize the frequency, incidence and severity of dengue fever and to identify clusters of disease in Suriname. The results illustrate the need to identify risk factors that influence the transmission of dengue in Suriname.

351 Early Sexual Debut and Associated Factors among In-school Adolescents in Six Caribbean Countries

K Peltzer, S Pengpid

There was a high prevalence of early sexual debut in adolescents in the six Caribbean countries studied. Male gender, substance use (smoking and alcohol use), having been in a physical fight in the past 12 months, sedentary behaviour, truancy and lack of parental or guardian attachment were associated with early sexual debut.

357 Analysis of the Clinical Characteristics of Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome in Different States of Renal Function

L-H Hu, L-J Zhang, Z-T Jin, W Yang, L-N Zhang, C-Y Lu

This is a retrospective analysis of the clinical data of patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) who had coronary angiography in order to investigate the clinical characteristics of the patients with ACS and chronic kidney disease, providing the theory support for the clinical diagnosis and treatment of these high-risk patients with ACS.

362 Effect of Repeated Recruitment Manoeuvres on Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

M-Q Li, G-J Han, J-Q Li, J-Y Xu, Z-X Shi, Z Zhang, F Lu, X-M Wang, Y-J Xu, X Mo

Recruitment manoeuvres (RMs) were conducted with continuous positive airway pressure on 41 ventilated patients with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). The results showed that repeated RMs during lung-protected ventilation can improve pulmonary com-

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pliance and oxygenation and significantly decrease extravascular lung water in ARDS patients. Lung injury was not worsened by repeated RMs in patients with severe ARDS.

367 Utility of the Tono-Pen in Measuring Intraocular Pressure in Trinidad: A Cross-sectional Study

A Billy, PE David, AK Mahabir, CP Seerattan, JM Street, VD Walcott, RJ Yarna, DC Murray, RG Maharaj

The high specificity and negative predictive value of the Tono-Pen suggests that it is a useful tool requiring minimal training, and can prove beneficial at the primary care level in the exclusion of increased intraocular pressure.

372 Profile of a Malignant Brain Tumour in Jamaica: An Eight-year Review, 2005 to 2012

P Johnson, JR Jaggon, J Campbell, C Bruce, D Ferron-Boothe, K James, I Crandon, D Eldemire-Shearer

Glioblastoma multiforme is the most malignant and the most common primary brain tumour worldwide. This initial study was undertaken in order to investigate the demographics of this very malignant tumour in our population using data from the recently started Intracranial Tumour Registry at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

376 Denoising of Ultrasound Cervix Image Using Improved Anisotropic Diffusion Filter

R Jemila Rose, S Allwin

Ultrasound imaging is the most commonly used imaging system in the medical field. The success of ultrasonic examination depends on the image quality which is usually retarded due to speckle noise. The optimal method for effective suppression of speckle noise is the improved anisotropic diffusion filter which gives a more efficient result by analysing the quality metrics.

384 Ultrasonographic Measurement of the Achilles and Supraspinatus Tendon Thicknesses in Patients with Chronic Lead Exposure

AE Baki, MT Yıldızgören, M Kara, T Ekiz, E Tutkun, L Özçakar

Preliminary results imply that subjects with occupational lead exposure have smaller Achilles tendons than healthy subjects. Chronic lead exposure may affect the tendons due to reduction of collagen synthesis.

388 Should Delayed Cholecystectomy Following Acute Calculous Cholecystitis Be Discouraged in a Resource-restricted Setting?

PA Leake, PO Roberts, K Pitzul, JM Plummer

Even in a resource-restricted setting, delayed cholecystectomy following acute calculous cholecystitis results in delays in definitive management with ensuing complications during the waiting period. Early cholecystectomy should be encouraged.

393 Does Nasal Septal Deviation Affect the Success of Tympanoplasty Surgery?

M Tan, MT Kalcioglu, M Akarcay, Y Toplu, S Karaca

Some surgeons believe that nasal septal deviation might be one of the causes of unsuccessful tympanoplasty results. The aim of this study was to evaluate acoustic rhinometry findings of patients who had tympanoplasty whether successful or not.

397 Retrocaval Ureter in Children: A Report of Eight Cases

J-S Sun, G Zhang, T Lin

Retrocaval ureter is a rare anomaly in the paediatric age group. Laparoscopy is a promising method for repair.

400 The Impact of Tumeric Cream on Healing of Caesarean Scar

G Mahmudi, M Nikpour, M Azadbackt, R Zanjani, MA Jahani, A Aghamohammadi

The REEDA scale was used to evaluate the wound healing process in three groups of women who had a Caesarean operation. Results showed that turmeric was effective in faster healing of wounds from a Caesarean section. The use of turmeric is suggested to reduce wound complications after Caesarean operation.

407 Confidence in Prescription Writing among Junior Physicians in Trinidad and Tobago

D Ignacio, P Sealy, Y Clement

This research aimed to estimate the percentage of newly registered medical officers who reported confidence in writing prescriptions. Most recent medical graduates felt confident about their prescription writing, but there is a need to objectively measure this ability.

REVIEW

413 A Review of *Clostridium difficile* Infection at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica

N Clare-Pascoe, MG Lee, T Murphy, A Nicholson, TS Ferguson

Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) per total stool samples and per total admissions increased at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. Although most cases were nosocomial, there was a greater than expected frequency of community acquired CDI. Ceftazidime was the most common antibiotic associated with CDI.

DENTAL FORUM

419 Role of Reactive Oxygen Species and Advanced Glycation End Products in the Malfunctioning of Dental Implants

M Guo, L Liu, J Zhang, M Liu

Pathogenesis of peri-implantitis remains largely unknown. In this study, we have used salivary and tissue samples of patients with peri-implantitis and have highlighted a significant role for oxidative stress and advanced glycation end products in the pathogenesis.

VIEWPOINT

424 Human Evolution: The Real Cause for Birth Palsy

R Sreekanth, BP Thomas

The authors propose that during the human evolution, the maternal birth canal twisted and narrowed and, along with enlarged head and broad shoulders of the fetus, the chances for arrest of fetal descent increased which really caused birth palsy.

429 Substance Use and Abuse and Its Effects on Mental Disorders in Trinidad and Tobago – The Available Prevention and Management Strategies

J Jainarinesingh

This paper deals with the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness in Trinidad and Tobago, its implications and management strategies.

CASE REPORTS

432 Fluoroscopy-guided Sacroiliac Joint Steroid Injection for Low Back Pain in a Patient with Osteogenesis Imperfecta

PUA Dawson, REC Rose, NA Wade

435 Follow-up Pseudomembranous Colitis in Children Using Colonoscopy: A Case Report

Q Zhao, H Yuan, H Hu, MQ Yan

438 Giant Cornu Cutaneum Superimposed on Basal Cell Carcinoma

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441 Primary Cardiac Angiosarcoma with Adrenal Metastasis

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447 Treatment with Doxycycline of Generalized Annular Elastolytic Giant Cell Granuloma Associated with *Borrelia burgdorferi* Infection

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452 Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt Combined with Haemoperfusion in an End-stage Renal Disease Patient with Liver Cirrhosis-related Refractory Portal Hypertensive Variceal Bleeding: A Case Report

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