Energy drinks give you wings but also an abnormal exercise test

This is the case of a 53-year-old man with known coronary artery disease who underwent two exercise treadmill tests (ETT). The first test, which yielded an abnormal result, was undertaken shortly after he had drunk two cans of Red Bull, a popular energy drink (ED). A second ETT was undertaken 1 week later by the same team without EDs on board and the test result was normal. This case suggests that drinking EDs prior to an ETT could lead to a false positive result and should be discouraged prior to exercise testing.

Relationship between oxygen concentration and temperature in an exothermic warming device

Actively warming hypothermic patients or preventing hypothermia is critical in optimising outcomes in patients with traumatic injuries. Our aim was to investigate the effect of ambient oxygen concentration on the rate and change in temperature of the TechTrade Ready-Heat II exothermic (oxygen-activated) warming blanket, to evaluate safety and ascertain the risk of thermal injury.

Wasp sting induced STEMI with complete coronary artery occlusion: a case of Kounis syndrome

A 45-year-old previously healthy man with minimal coronary artery disease on imaging presented with an acute MI after sustaining a wasp sting following previous non-eventful exposures throughout his life. This is the first case of Kounis syndrome with optical coherence tomography imaging and proven IgE wasp venom hypersensitivity. The Hymenoptera venom is composed of allergenic proteins and vasoactive amines which are responsible for venom toxicity. This patient also has a history of atopy giving a predisposition for developing IgE-mediated allergic reactions. Hymenoptera stings can be severe in atopic individuals and anaphylaxis may ensue. However, it is a rare cause of myocardial infarction (MI) (Kounis syndrome). Multiple wasp stings in the past may have contributed to sensitisation. Kounis syndrome is a rare clinical manifestation which should remain in the minds of physicians, especially with younger patients with no history of ischaemic heart disease or few risk factors.

Remote management of heart failure using implantable electronic devices


Non-pharmacological interventions for non-respiratory sleep disturbance in children with neurodisabilities: a systematic review
Thomas M, Wright K, Beresford B. Dev Med Child Neurol. 2018 Jul 29

We systematically reviewed non-pharmacological interventions aimed at improving non-respiratory sleep disturbance in children with neurodisability. Sixteen databases, grey literature, and reference lists of included papers were searched up to February 2017. Two researchers (B.B., C.M., G.S., A.S., A.P.) undertook screening, data extraction, and quality appraisal.

Individual and monitoring centre influences upon anticoagulation control of AF patients on warfarin: a longitudinal multi-centre UK-based study


Time within therapeutic INR range (TTR) predicts benefits/risk of warfarin therapy. Identification of individual- and centre-related factors that influence TTR, and addressing them to improve anticoagulation control are important. This study examined the impact of individual and centre-related factors upon long-term anticoagulation control in atrial fibrillation patients in seven UK-based monitoring services.

Reliability of digital ulcer definitions as proposed by the UK Scleroderma Study Group: A challenge for clinical trial design


J Scleroderma Relat Disord. 2018 Jun 1;3(2):170-174

The reliability of clinician grading of systemic sclerosis-related digital ulcers has been reported to be poor to moderate at best, which has important implications for clinical trial design. The aim of this study was to examine the reliability of new proposed UK Scleroderma Study Group digital ulcer definitions among UK clinicians with an interest in systemic sclerosis.

Syphilitic jaundice: a rare manifestation of the secondary stage presenting a missed opportunity to prevent ocular syphilis

Syphilitic jaundice: a rare manifestation of the secondary stage presenting a missed opportunity to prevent ocular syphilis

Curran J, Higgins SP. BMJ Case Rep. 2018 Jan 4;2018

The classical presentation of secondary syphilis comprises skin rashes, mucocutaneous ulceration and lymphadenopathy. However, this disseminated stage can also present with symptoms and signs of ocular, neurological, pulmonary, renal, musculoskeletal and digestive tract disease. We report the case of a gay man who presented with icteric hepatitis. Although he underwent an exhaustive series of investigations (some of which were invasive), syphilis was not initially considered in the differential diagnosis. His jaundice resolved spontaneously, but he subsequently developed an acute optic neuritis. Early syphilis is relatively common in men who have sex with men (MSM). Prompt diagnosis and treatment in this case would have prevented ocular involvement. Syphilis testing should be considered in all MSM presenting with unexplained symptoms and signs.