

Dear friends of clinical journal club:

In the N Engl J Med image, we see a blister-forming rash. The blisters are half-filled with clear fluid and half-filled with leukocytes. Offered are cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, eosinophilic folliculitis, impetigo, pustular rosacea, and subcorneal pustular dermatosis. Meant is the stratum corneum of the skin, not the cornea of the eye. We go over all these conditions. We inspect a JAMA paper on the treatment of osteoporosis (T values) with nitrate paste. Nitrates have been used for angina pectoris for 150 years, but for osteoporosis? Learn how this may work. Multiple myeloma is a malignant tumor of plasma cells and since they reside in bone marrow, bone is invariably involved. The disease is lethal and has a life expectancy of about 3 years, which can be doubled in those receiving autologous bone marrow transplants. Lenalidomide is a thalidomide derivative that has an immunomodulatory effect. We inspect three trials of lenalidomide in multiple myeloma patients, those who cannot be transplanted who receive melphalan and prednisone and two studies in patients after bone marrow transplantation. Certification to perform catheter-based interventions for coronary artery disease was originally limited to hospitals that had the capability to perform cardiac surgery on site. Andreas Grünzig, who developed PCI, had to send 10 of his first 50 PCI patients off for emergency operations. However, there has been a progressive worldwide trend to allow percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) to be performed without on-site surgical backup. We inspect a randomized trial of patients referred to hospitals for PCI without and with surgical backup. Moritz Kaposi was a dermatologist, after whom the Kaposi Sarcoma and Kaposi's varicelliform eruption are named. We encounter a patient with atopic dermatitis who then develops Kaposi's varicelliform eruption. Did you know that both of these conditions are caused by a Herpes virus? Have you ever seen a Tzanck test performed? Hodgkin's lymphoma used to be invariably fatal but for 40 years, we can offer chemotherapy and irradiation. Now we learn about testing for less toxic treatments with the same gain. We learn that six cycles of BEACOPPescalated should be the treatment of choice for advanced stage Hodgkin's lymphoma. PET done after chemotherapy can guide the need for additional radiotherapy in this setting. Pregnant women with a short

cervix enter premature labor. Could a simple pessary help matters and how can that hypothesis be tested? We next learn that almost half of male cancer deaths in India are tobacco-related. Moslem women have far less cervical cancer than Hindu women in India. Our Lancet reviews are about mitochondrial diseases and pulmonary thromboembolism. Did you know that the process of mitochondrial fission-fusion has become a focus of attention in human disease? Importantly, the mitochondrion is now a target for therapeutic interventions that encompass small molecules, transcriptional regulation, and genetic manipulation. Research in the area is offering opportunities to treat a diverse range of diseases. The Lancet case involves a psoas abscess. The cause should be tuberculosis, but its not.

See you there this Wednesday for all the excitement or via the Internet.

Yours,

Fred Luft

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