



The Foundation for Medical Practice Education *NEWS* Practice Based Learning Programs

NOUVELLES La Fondation pour l'éducation médicale continue
Programmes d'apprentissage basé sur la pratique

Issue 34, February 2008



**Group celebrates
10th anniversary.
See page 2 for more
details...**

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EDITOR'S CORNER

NOCTURNAL ENURESIS (NOVEMBER 2007) – MEDICATION ALERT

In early December 2007, the US Food and Drug Administration issued an alert for desmopressin, following reports of 2 deaths linked to seizures as a result of hyponatraemia in patients taking this medication for nocturnal enuresis.

Children treated with the intranasal formulation of the drug for primary nocturnal enuresis are particularly at risk for developing severe hyponatremia that can result in seizures and death.

As a result, “desmopressin intranasal formulations are no longer indicated for the treatment of primary nocturnal enuresis and should not be used in hyponatremic patients or patients with a history of hyponatremia.” As well, all desmopressin formulations should be used cautiously in patients at risk for water intoxication with hyponatremia.

When enuresis is treated with desmopressin tablets, meds should be interrupted during acute illnesses (such as fever, recurrent vomiting or diarrhea) and vigorous exercise or increased water consumption that may lead to fluid and/or electrolyte imbalance. — CH/TK/LS/DH

Source:
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/desmopressinHCP.htm>

DYSLIPIDEMIA (AUGUST 2007)

Q: In the Commentary for Case 2, the 40-year-old man, information is given about his 20-year risk of CHD when the module itself uses the Framingham 10-year CHD risk prediction model. Can you please explain?

A: This information was added through the review process, in an effort to demonstrate how the short-term Framingham Risk Score (FRS) determination may be misleading by not identifying subjects with high *lifetime* risk for CHD.^{1,2} This is discussed in the section on “Short-term versus long-term risk” on pages 915-6 in the Canadian guidelines.³

However, determination of long-term risk needs to be kept in clinical perspective. The calculation of short-term absolute risk using the FRS helps guide decisions about adding/recommending medication, whereas “the high lifetime risk of CHD might be more useful in motivating *lifestyle modification efforts* aimed at lowering cholesterol levels and other risk factors” in younger individuals who have elevated cholesterol levels but low short-term risk.² For those who are interested, information about 20-year CHD risk by age, sex and TC/HDL-C ratio is available (see Table 4 in 2003 article¹ by Lloyd-Jones and colleagues). — JF/LT/JW

References

1. Lloyd-Jones DM, Wilson PW, Larson MG, Beiser A, Leip EP, D'Agostino RB, Levy D. Framingham risk score and prediction of lifetime risk for coronary heart disease. *Am J Cardiol.* 2004 Jul 1;94(1):20-4. PMID: 15219502
2. Lloyd-Jones DM, Wilson PW, Larson MG, Leip E, Beiser A, D'Agostino RB, Cleeman JI, Levy D. Lifetime risk of coronary heart disease by cholesterol levels at selected ages. *Arch Intern Med.* 2003 Sep 8;163(16):1966-72. PMID: 12963571
3. McPherson R, Frohlich J, Fodor G, Genest J. Canadian Cardiovascular Society position statement -- Recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of dyslipidemia and prevention of cardiovascular disease. *Can J Cardiol* 2006; 22(11):913-927. PMID:16971976

CONSTIPATION (FEBRUARY 2007)

Q: What preparations of polyethylene glycol (PEG) are appropriate for the treatment of fecal impaction in children?

A: Our apologies! We didn't correctly format the section on **Polyethylene glycol (PEG)** in Appendix 2. That section lists PegLyte® and GoLyte® in parentheses directly below Polyethylene glycol 3350. This implies that these are the trade names for this agent, but they are not! GoLyte®, Colyte®, and PegLyte® are all

brand names for PEG *with* electrolytes. These agents are appropriate for the treatment of constipation, but not for disimpaction in children. MiraLax® is the most common brand name for PEG 3350 without electrolytes. However, in children, the safest approach is to simply prescribe "Polyethylene glycol (PEG) 3350 *without* added electrolytes" (as described on page 9 in the Commentary for Case 1, Part 2). — RR/JW

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW BOARD MEMBERS – ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIONS

We would like to welcome to the Board of Directors of The FMPE, Dr. Jamie Boyd, from Manitoba, as the Chairs of Family Medicine representative and Dr. Roger Butler, from Newfoundland as the Canadian University Academic representative.

MEMBERS' CORNER *Do you have something to share? Email us at fmpe@mcmaster.ca*

This section will be dedicated to member stories, celebrations, ideas, tips and suggestions that can be enjoyed by all our membership....so mail, fax or email us, we would love to hear from you!



Group Celebrates 10th Anniversary in Boston

In the words of Dr. Deborah Smith, Facilitator, of her Sudbury Group: "...our group celebrated our 10th anniversary together last year. We decided to do something special, so five out of eight of us went to Boston for a weekend. This group of five have all been members from the beginning, we have had a few others come and go....We are an all female group and three times our dinner has been catered by one of our husband chefs! I have attached a photo from Boston as well as our most recent dinner, which was at a Japanese restaurant this year" (front cover).

IDEAS, TIPS OR SUGGESTIONS....

Dr. Howard R. Cohen, an Ottawa PBSG participant since 1996, emailed us with this tip:

"My summer student compiled all of the patient handouts in the back of the Problem Based Learning information packages and formed a binder with patient handouts. The patients at our office have found this binder very helpful and informative. "

FACILITATOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS *contact Heather Haywood 800.661.3249 haywood@mcmaster.ca*

Spring 2008

Saturday, April 5 Hamilton
Saturday, April 19 Vancouver
Saturday, April 19 Ottawa

Fall 2008

Saturday, October 4 Hamilton
Saturday, October 18 Calgary
Saturday, October 18 Montreal

UPCOMING MODULES *Do you have a module topic suggestion? Send to: fmpe@mcmaster.ca*

- Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Insomnia
- Nausea and Vomiting in Pregnancy

Visit our Website at www.fmpe.org or call (800) 661-3249