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Clinical and diagnostic aspects of encephalopathy associated with autoimmune thyroid disease (or Hashimoto’s encephalopathy)
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Encephalopathy associated with autoimmune thyroiditis is a subacute, relapsing-remitting, steroid-responsive encephalopathy characterised by a variety of neurologic and neuropsychiatric symptoms, diffuse electroencephalographic abnormalities and increased thyroid antibodies. Its pathogenesis remains unknown, but an autoimmune aetiology is likely. Two clinical cases and a review of the literature are here presented.

Changes in erythropoiesis, iron metabolism and oxidative stress after half-marathon
L. Duca, A. Da Ponte, M. Cozzi, A. Carbone, M. Pomati, I. Nava, M.D. Cappellini, G. Fiorelli
This study investigated the haematological, iron and oxidative indices during half-marathon. The total number of reticulocytes and the high-RNA-content fraction increased significantly after the run. Non-transferrin-bound iron and serum malondialdehyde increased significantly immediately after running. Significant positive correlations between oxidation and iron parameters were observed. The erythropoietic changes observed involve either the haemopoietic system per se or erythrocyte haemolysis and oxidative stress.

Clinical and laboratory patterns of the haemolytic uraemic syndrome and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura in southern Iran
M. Karimi, A. Sabzi, F. Peyvandi, P.M. Mannucci
The haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) are rare disorders characterised by intravascular platelet aggregation and widespread thrombus formation in the microcirculation resulting in tissue ischaemia. A retrospective analysis was carried out in 101 patients with HUS and in 35 patients with TTP hospitalized from April 1991 through March 2004 in three large hospitals in southern Iran. This study demonstrates that, in contrast to other countries, the incidence rate of HUS shows a decreasing trend in southern Iran, probably related to the decrease in gastrointestinal diarrhoeal infections (especially Escherichia coli 0157:H7) and their improved management. The incidence of TTP is increasing as in other countries.

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Reorganisation of an anticoagulation clinic using a telemedicine system: description of the model and preliminary results
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The reorganisation of an anticoagulation clinic (AC) using a telemedicine system is described. The major points of this project are the following: 1) decentralisation of the activity in peripheral health units; 2) maintenance of the same quality levels; 3) improvement of the quality of life of patients living far from the AC location; and 4) reduction by 30% in the number of patients who attend daily the AC.

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