REVIEWS

Coronary calcium as an atherosclerosis marker
C. Ratti, E. Chiurlia, M. Menozzi, A. Barbieri, M.G. Modena
Calcification of the coronary arteries is a marker of atherosclerosis. The amount of coronary calcium is related to the extent of coronary plaque disease, which has substantial prognostic implications. Electron beam tomography and multislice computed tomography represent an important tool to detect coronary calcium.

Reproductive aspects of celiac disease
A.V. Stazi, B. Trinti
Celiac disease induces both general malabsorption and deficiencies of specific micronutrients which are essential for normal female and male reproductive development. In particular, affected males show a picture of tissue resistance to androgens. The increase of follicle-stimulating hormone and prolactin may indicate an imbalance at hypothalamus-pituitary level with general effects on health.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Clinical nutritional outcome of protein energy malnutrition in hospitalized patients with anorexia nervosa
C. De Caprio, L. Zarrella, I. Senatore, E. Silvestri, F. Contaldo, F. Pasanisi
The effectiveness of an integrated medical psychiatric treatment in hospitalized severely malnourished anorexia nervosa patients, has been evaluated. Enteral nutrition was prescribed in 4 patients, nutritional supplements plus diet in 4, and diet in 7 patients; forced nutrition was not necessary. The intervention was effective to obtain a mild body weight increase with normalization of all biochemical parameters.

Critical evaluation of the plasma concentration variation of B-type natriuretic peptide in emergency in paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, in acute pulmonary embolism, in acute coronary syndrome and in dilated cardiomyopathy
The aim of the study was to assess whether the variation of B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) concentration may be useful during the diagnosis and therapy. BNP level warms the activation of neuroendocrine systems, relevant in case of heart failure. The main limit of the BNP diagnostic role is the necessity of knowing in advance the specific values for each patient.

CASE REPORTS

Dercum’s disease: a case report
L. Moi, C. Canu, P. Pirari, M.N. Mura, G. Piludia, G.S. Del Giacco
A case of Dercum’s disease in a 51-year-old obese woman with a history of brain vasculitis, and painful subcutaneous multiple lipomas is described. This disease is characterized by its prevalence among women, its family history, by the presence of multiple painful subcutaneous lipomas and its association with obesity, hypercholesterolemia and asthenia.

Acquired factor VIII hemophilia in a geriatric patient
The authors describe the case of an old man with extensive hematomas, and a diagnosis of acquired hemophilia A, successfully treated with human factor VIII and steroid therapy. Acquired hemophilia is a rare coagulopathy in adults, caused by the development of autoantibodies against factor VIII and associated with bleeding complications.

Association between immune thrombocytopenic purpura and chronic lymphocytic leukemia in a patient carrier of anti-hepatitis C virus antibodies
F. Numeroso, M.C. Baroni, R. Delsignore
An immune thrombocytopenic purpura patient, “healthy carrier” of hepatitis C virus antibody, was treated with steroids and cyclophosphamide, and splenectomy was performed. Two years later, a B-cell non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma) was also diagnosed. The marked thrombocytopenia may have been an early expression of the lymphoproliferative disease. Otherwise, the association between chronic lymphocytic leukemia and immune thrombocytopenic purpura might reflect an immune dysregulation due to hepatitis C virus infection.