CONTENTS

REVIEWS

G-protein $\beta_3$-subunit gene 825T allele and cardiovascular risk
M. Sartori, E. Parotto, G. Ceolotto, I. Papparella, L. Lenzini, L.A. Calò, A. Semplicini

A polymorphism (825C/T) in exon 10 of the GNB3 gene is associated with alternative splicing and formation of a truncated but functionally active $\beta_3$ subunit. Carriers of the 825T allele may have increased risk for hypertension, obesity, insulin-resistance and left ventricular hypertrophy. Further studies are warranted to precisely determine the impact of T allele on the prognosis of the hypertensive patient.

The role of the infectious agents in the pathogenesis and evolution of atherosclerosis
C. Blasi

Infectious agents are suspected to play a role in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. The mechanism is still unknown, but immune reactions to heat shock proteins seem to play a key role. Several antibiotic trials have led to inconclusive results. Future therapeutic perspectives regard earlier antibiotic treatment and induction of tolerance to heat shock proteins.

About cardiovascular risk in non-cardiac surgery
C. Mandolini, A. Tornini, M.C. Borgia

Adequate preoperative evaluation and perioperative and postoperative management may improve the short- and long-term prognoses of patients at risk for cardiovascular complications who undergo non-cardiac surgery. The purpose of this review is to examine the present day knowledge and the new therapeutic pharmacological prospects.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Fabry disease in Italy: first epidemiological and collaborative study

This is the first epidemiological and collaborative Italian study on Fabry disease, a rare, metabolic inherited disease due to deficiency of $\alpha$-galactosidase A often misdiagnosed. This paper aims at pointing out clinical sings and early symptoms of Fabry disease in order to perform an early diagnosis and to start enzyme replacement therapy as soon as possible.

CASE REPORTS

Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid and oral anticoagulants: a possible dangerous association
C. Caulli, L. Fenu, A. Perru, F. Marongiu

The authors report a case of cholestatic hepatitis and a concomitant overdose of oral anticoagulants in a patient treated with amoxicillin-clavulanic acid for 18 days andacenocoumarol. When using amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, one should take into account its potential hepatic toxicity and the possible interaction with oral anticoagulants.

Meningococcal osteomyelitis in a premature infant
A. Cigni, S. Cossellu, A. Porcu, S. Piga

A rare case of acute hematogenous osteomyelitis in a premature infant caused by Neisseria meningitidis is reported. The strong teamwork of the clinicians, the clinical microbiologist and the radiologist allowed the prompt formulation and confirmation of the clinical suspect, the rapid isolation of the microorganism and the prompt initiation of a specific therapy, with an excellent outcome.

Calciphylaxis in a patient with POEMS syndrome without renal failure and/or hyperparathyroidism. A case report
I. De Roma, R. Filotico, M. Cea, P. Procaccio, F. Perosa

A case of POEMS syndrome associated with a peculiar type of cutaneous vasculitis referred to as calciphylaxis is described for the first time. The absence of predisposing conditions, namely renal failure, hyperparathyroidism or clotting disorders renders the pathogenetic mechanism(s) of this severe type of vasculitis more intriguing.