CONTENTS

REVIEWS
Functional dyspepsia: definition, classification, clinical and therapeutic management
M. Montalto, L. Santoro, M. Vastola, V. Curigliano, G. Cammarota, R. Manna, G. Gasbarrini
Dyspepsia is a very common syndrome characterized by pain and/or discomfort of the upper abdomen. Very frequently, it is not possible to demonstrate any organic disease (functional dyspepsia). The authors aim to clarify its classification and to indicate the optimal management of the dyspeptic patient, analyzing the currently available drugs.

Hemodynamic derangement and cardiac dysfunction in cirrhosis
P. Gentilini, G. La Villa, G. Laffi, M. Pinzani
During the long course of liver cirrhosis, important hemodynamic modifications occur. Such phenomena may induce sodium and water retention with signs of hyperdynamic circulation. During the latter phases, evident alterations in cardiac function may also appear. The administration of low doses of diuretics (anti-aldosteronics) are capable of counteracting this event.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES
A randomized, controlled study of specific immunotherapy in monosensitized subjects with seasonal rhinitis: effect on bronchial hyperresponsiveness, sputum inflammatory markers and development of asthma symptoms
Allergic rhinitis may be an important risk factor for asthma. In this double-blind, placebo-controlled study lasting 3 years, the authors investigated whether specific immunotherapy prevents progression to asthma in 30 subjects with rhinitis. Although symptoms were well controlled by specific immunotherapy, the authors found no significant changes in the sputum parameters and bronchial hyperresponsiveness between groups. Forty-seven percent of the participants in the placebo group developed asthma as opposed to only 14% in the specific immunotherapy-treated group. Specific immunotherapy may prevent the natural progression of allergic rhinitis to asthma.

Analysis of the problem of “difficult hospital discharges” in the University Hospital of Parma
The authors analyzed the problems related to the so-called “difficult hospital discharges”, conceived as situations involving an economic, human and organizational burden of exceeding patients’ and their families’ capacities and requiring a specific involvement of territorial services. The study shows that the phenomenon of difficult discharges is nowadays a very topical problem and that it should be faced with a new model of continuous and integrated assistance organization.

CASE REPORTS
A “progressive” visual loss
L. Capaldi, S. Ursella, L. Miele, D. Larussa, F. Pallavicini, G. Gasbarrini, A. Grieço, N. Gentiloni Silveri
A 60-year-old woman with chronic lymphocytic leukemia was referred for left homonymous hemianopsia to the Emergency Department. Neuroimaging revealed a pattern compatible with multifocal leukoencephalopathy and analysis of the cerebrospinal fluid yielded positivity for papovavirus JC. Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy due to papovavirus JC, is a rare complication in immunosuppressed patients.

Bleeding gastrointestinal angiodysplasias: our experience and a review of the literature
A. Lonardo, M. Greco, A. Grisendi
The case of a cirrhotic woman with aortic stenosis and bleeding duodeno-jejunal angiodysplasia is reported. The authors present their series of 24 consecutive patients with bleeding gastrointestinal angiodysplasias observed in 1993-2003. The literature on the relationship between bleeding gastrointestinal angiodysplasias and aortic stenosis, von Willebrand’s disease, liver cirrhosis and chronic renal failure is concisely reviewed.