



September 2008

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Quote of the Month:

"It is our choices, Harry [Potter], that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

(book author J.K. Rowling)

Case of the Month

Three weeks after returning from an archeological dig in New Mexico a previously healthy 22 year old college student develops fever, chills, and myalgias. Three days later he experiences nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and headache. On a visit to an urgent care center, he denies rhinorrhea, sore throat, cough, jaundice, or skin rash. He has a fever of 101 and appears acutely ill. He is treated symptomatically for a presumed self-limited viral illness. The following day he develops a non-productive cough and within several hours is dyspneic and lightheaded. On repeat examination he has BP of 70/50, O2 saturation of 84% on room air, and a CXR showing a bilateral symmetrical pulmonary edema pattern sparing the bases. CBC demonstrates leukocytosis and thrombocytopenia. Although the differential diagnosis may include several bacterial, parasitic, and viral pathogens, which would be at the top of your list?

Did You Know?

There are no poisonous snakes in Maine.

Positive Feedback

Dr. John Hughes, Director of the Medical Surgical Health Center, thanks Hendren Bajillan for volunteering to attend an extra hematology/oncology clinic in July.

Morning Report Quiz Winners

Congratulations to the following residents, winners of the Morning Report image quiz at each rotation site in July:

- MVH – Mustafa Musleh (R1)
- VAMC – Erica Hill (R1)
- WPMC – James Cox (R2), reported with 79%, far ahead of the second place contender!

Reminders – Don't Procrastinate!!

How often should I log on to RMS to enter conference attendance, update procedure logs, and check evaluations received or to be completed?

At least weekly is recommended. Anything less and you'll be slipping behind in your documentation.

How often should I check with the medical records departments to see if I have charts to do?

For the first few weeks after completing a rotation at any site, you're likely to have charts popping up needing signatures, discharge summary verification, etc. It's a good idea to call every week and make arrangements for pre-pull of records at those sites still using paper charts. It won't be long till they'll all be electronic and this problem will vanish forever !! ...to be replaced by irritating electronic delinquencies that seem to have a life of their own, even when it's not your patient...

When should I turn in the required mini-CEX, EBM reports, H&P audits, etc.?

As soon as possible! The idea is to get feedback so you can be working to improve! Don't wait till the end of the academic year, especially if you're an R3 !!

Trivia Question:

What nutritional supplement may reduce the incidence of complex regional pain syndrome following wrist fracture?

Amusing Medical Records Entry [actual chart documentation]

"Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year."

**Answer to Trivia
Question:**

Vitamin C

And the Oscar goes to ...

Kudos to Casey Frakes, Omar Mufti, and Jesse Wickham for fine performances in a simulated patient scenario followed, for Casey and Omar, by a simulated malpractice deposition at Resident Forum. They were good sports and demonstrated that even the best physicians can be forced to squirm under the relentless grilling of a plaintiff's attorney. Nathaniel Schlicher, MD, JD, one of our WSU Emergency Medicine residents and the organizer of the sessions, said "Dr. Mufti and Dr. Frakes performed admirably and I hope they know how much I appreciated their participation."


Curiosity – Leave it to the Cats

Remember you should look at patient records, paper or electronic, only if you are involved as a physician in the care of that patient or have permission to use the record for an approved clinical research project. You are not permitted to "browse" the record of a family member, friend, or celebrity. Nor should you look at x-rays of trauma victims reported on the news, lab reports of colleagues, or progress notes about YOU! The electronic access of records is monitored closely and serious consequences can befall healthcare personnel who don't follow the rules. Physicians have been known to lose hospital privileges and residents have been terminated from training programs as a result of their curiosity and lack of restraint. Don't let that happen to you!

Answer to Case

Hantavirus. The geographic setting, outdoor activity, and delayed prodrome followed by rapid respiratory deterioration with an ARDS-like picture are typical for Hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS). [The other form of this disease is hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS)]. As there is no antiviral therapy shown to be effective, immediate transfer to a tertiary care center for intensive supportive care is indicated.

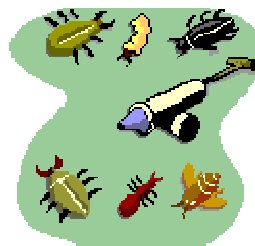
Happy Birthday

	James Cox	R2	9/30
	Adam Derrickson	R3	9/11
	Ross Dodge	R1	9/13
	Soundari Gurusamy	R1	9/20
	Senthuran Siva	R2	9/5
	Naveen Thota	Chief Resident	9/12

Tips from the Farmer's Almanac

It is still the time when some summer bugs are still at their best (or worst, as the case may be!). Herbs can be used for pest control. Dried wormwood, yarrow, santolina, tansy, mint, and lavender are traditional moth repellents. If you find unwanted creatures in your kitchen, don't reach for the poison. For example, discourage ants trailing in and out with sprigs of pennyroyal or wipe your counters with vinegar.

If it's your pet that's bothered, try putting a drop of lemon oil or oil of rosemary on its collar for flea control.



HAVE A GREAT LABOR DAY!!