
EDITORIAL

This compendium of “Hot Topic” articles focuses on challenging technical, diagnostic and therapeutic subject matter for physicians who specialize in emergency medicine. In these four “Hot Topic” articles challenging therapeutic and diagnostic topics are reviewed by authors from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia, United States of America. Two of the articles cover unique and challenging ultrasound topics, a third reviews a rare and diagnostically challenging dermatologic condition and the last article discusses a topic not widely known or applied in emergency medicine, the use of intramuscular injections for treating headaches.

Over the last ten years the growth of expertise in emergency ultrasound has truly blossomed and the ultrasound articles included here provide further evidence of this fact. And, there is no denying the diagnostic utility of this technology in our specialty. On a daily basis thousands of lives are saved in emergency departments because of more timely clinical interventions or earlier recognition of health threats such as ectopic pregnancies and aortic dissections.

The concept of using intramuscular injections around the head and neck to treat headache pain has not yet had a widespread acceptance or application in emergency medicine. In this hot topics compendium, three different formats reported in the literature for treating headache pain using intramuscular injections of anesthetics are reviewed. This evidence is clear that anesthetic intramuscular injections of the head and neck do work to treat headache pain. Nevertheless, this area is also a ripe one for further research in emergency medicine.

Finally, the diagnosis of dermatologic conditions in the emergency department can be a challenge. On rare occasions, the dermatologist can be consulted concurrently with the emergency department visit. That was the case of the challenging dermatologic condition presented in this compendium of articles. Timely recognition and management of Norwegian scabies can impact positively everyone who has or will “come in contact” with the patient.

We hope that our readers will enjoy this set of articles covering challenging cases in emergency medicine.

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