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REVIEW ARTICLES

- 471 C-reactive Protein and Malignancy: Clinico-pathological Association and Therapeutic Implication**
Chia-Siu Wang, MD; Chien-Feng Sun, MD
Serum C-reactive protein (CRP) is a sensitive but nonspecific marker of inflammation. Serum CRP levels are elevated in many patients with malignancies, implying a close linkage between inflammation and cancer. Preoperative CRP levels in cancer patients are parallel to the progression or pathological stages of many malignancies, including gastric cancer in our series. Elevated CRP is a determinant predictor of lower survival rates after surgical resection in patients with several cancers. CRP-lowering agents may have a promising role for the prevention and therapy of patients with malignancies in the future.
- 483 Strategies to Enhance Tendon Graft - Bone Healing in Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction**
Chih-Hwa Chen, MD
Successful anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with a tendon graft requires solid healing of the tendon graft in the bone tunnels. Improvement of graft healing to bone is crucial to facilitate early and aggressive rehabilitation and a rapid return to full activity. Theoretically, interface fibrocartilage formation as the translational structure from ligament to bone is physiological and functional. Our strategies to enhance tendon graft to bone healing, including the use of periosteum and a hydrogel containing periosteal progenitor cell and bone morphogenetic protein-2, are described.

FORUM

- 494 New Insights into Polycistronic Transcripts in Eukaryotes**
Haiwei Pi, PhD; Li-Wei Lee, PhD; Szecheng J. Lo, PhD
In addition to bacteria and archaea having operons, two different types of operons are found in eukaryotes. One is through the trans-splicing mechanism to produce two or more mature mRNAs from a polycistronic transcript in *Trypanosoma* and nematode. The other is similar to bacteria polycistronic transcripts but encoding as few as 11 amino acid residues with biological activities in insects. These findings revise the previous thoughts that polycistronic genes were absent or few in eukaryotes and reconstructs a new concept of the open reading frame (ORF).

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- 499 Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Lung Disease in Southern Taiwan**
Chin-Chou Wang, MD, MPH; Meng-Chih Lin, MD; Jien-Wei Liu, MD; Yi-Hsi Wang, MD
This study offers a retrospective review of patients with nontuberculous mycobacterium (NTM) pulmonary disease at the Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital from 2004 to 2005. The study included 67, predominantly male, patients with NTM pulmonary disease and an average age of 66.6 ± 14.5 years. Of these patients, 88.1% had pre-existing lung disease. Rapid-growth species (*M. abscessus*, 44.8% and *M. fortuitum*, 23.9%) were the most commonly isolated species. Forty patients were treated and followed up for at least one year, and of these 31 had a favorable outcome. The predominant species in southern Taiwan differ from those in other countries and in northern Taiwan.
- 509 Abdominal Tuberculosis: Analysis of Clinical Features and Outcome of Adult Patients in Southern Taiwan**
Ming-Luen Hu, MD; Chen-Hsiang Lee, MD; Chung-Mou Kuo, MD; Chao-Cheng Huang, MD; Wei-Chen Tai, MD; Kuo-Chin Chang, MD; Chuan-Mo Lee, MD; Seng-Kee Chuah, MD
This study involved 14 abdominal tuberculosis patients at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital-Kaohsiung,

Taiwan. They were all seen after the establishment of the tuberculosis control programme by the Center of Disease Control (Taiwan) in January 2000. These patients were studied from January 2000 to December 2006. No specific symptoms and signs existed but tuberculosis peritonitis and intestinal tuberculosis were the most common type of infections. 35.7% of patients had the coexistence of extra-abdominal infection. Patients were diagnosed by bacteriology (35.7%), biopsy materials from laparotomy (42.8%), liver biopsy (14.3%), and biopsy materials from colonoscopy (7.2%). Patients were cured after taking antituberculous drugs at least 6 months without relapse during regular follow-up for at least 2 years.

517 Transoral Endoscopic CO₂ Laser Microsurgery for Early Laryngeal Cancers

Li-Jen Hsin, MD; Tuan-Jen Fang, MD; Kai-Ping Chang, MD, PhD; Ku-Hao Fang, MD; Ngan-Ming Tsang, MD, DSc; Yao-Liang Chen, MD; Shih-Ming Jung, MD; Albert Re-Ming Yeh, MD; Sheng-Po Hao, MD, FICS, FACS

Various treatments have been introduced for early laryngeal carcinomas. In order to demonstrate the oncological results of transoral endoscopic CO₂ laser microsurgery (TLM), we retrospectively reviewed the records of 48 patients who had received primary treatment using this modality. When combined with radiotherapy and radical salvage operation, both oncological and functional outcomes following TLM were satisfactory. It was concluded that TLM is an optimal primary treatment modality for early stage laryngeal malignancies.

526 Adjuvant Androgen Deprivation Therapy Loses Its Therapeutic Benefit after Premature Termination: An Experience of Combined Modality Treatment on Prostate Cancer

Kang-Hsing Fan, MD; Yen-Chao Chen, MD; Cheng-Keng Chuang, MD, PhD; Min-Li Hsieh, MD; Ji-Hong Hong, MD, PhD

To investigate the effect of premature terminated androgen deprivation therapy adjunct to radiotherapy, we collected the data of 92 patients, who were treated by primary external beam radiotherapy between December 2001 and March 2004. We found that the only significantly poor prognostic factor was for patients in the high risk group who received adjuvant androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) for less than 2 years. The 3-year recurrence-free survival rate was 28.6% and significantly worse than patients from the same high risk group who received long-term ADT (88.1%) or no adjuvant ADT (76.4%, $p < 0.001$). According to the results, premature termination should be avoided.

535 Retinoic Acid Syndrome in Patients following the Treatment of Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia with All-trans Retinoic Acid

Yung-Cheng Su, MD; Po Dunn, MD; Lee-Yung Shih, MD; Ming-Chung Kuo, MD; Hung Chang, MD; Jin-Hou Wu, MD; Tung-Liang Lin, MD; Po-Nan Wang, MD; Tzung-Chih Tang, MD; Yu-Shin Hung, MD

We retrospectively analyzed 102 acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) patients and of these eight patients (7.8%) experienced retinoic acid syndrome (RAS) which developed after a median of 9 days of all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) treatment. Age, gender, morphological or molecular subtypes, an initial leukocyte count of more than $10 \times 10^9/L$ or the presence of concurrent chemotherapy did not significantly attribute to the occurrence of RAS.

543 Clinical Characteristics, Precipitating Stressors, and Correlates of Lethality among Suicide Attempters

Ya-Wen Wu, MD; Yi-Jen Su, MS; Chih-Ken Chen, MD, PhD

This study investigated clinical features, precipitating stressors, and correlates of suicide lethality among suicide attempters in a general hospital. Among the 357 suicide attempters who were admitted to the emergency room, the proportion of females was much higher than that of males. The age distribution peaked at 20 to 29 years old in females and 30 to 39 years old in males. Relationship problems were the most common precipitating stressors. The most prevalent psychiatric diagnosis was affective disorders. Self-poisoning by medication was the most commonly used suicide method. Those with high-lethality attempts were older, and males proportionally increased with the severity of lethality.

553 Low Body Mass Index is An Independent Risk Factor of Locoregional Recurrence in Women with Breast Cancer Undergoing Breast Conserving Therapy

Chun-Han Chen, MD; Yong-Feng Lo, MD; Hsiu-Pei Tsai, MD; Shih-Che Shen, MD; Tzu-Chieh Chao, MD, PhD; Miin-Fu Chen, MD; Shin-Cheh Chen, MD

To investigate the risk factors of locoregional recurrence (LRR), women who had undergone breast conserving therapy from 1998 to 2005 were retrospectively reviewed. LRR was defined as the reappearance of carcinoma in the treated breast and/or ipsilateral axillary lymph node. The appearance of carcinoma outside the above area

was defined as distant metastasis. Totally 858 patients were included, and 27 (3.1%) of them developed LRR. A low body mass index and young age were independent risk factors of LRR in multivariate analysis. In conclusion, breast conserving in a young population can achieve good results after careful selection.

563 Reconstruction Intramedullary Nailing for Ipsilateral Femoral Neck and Shaft Fractures: Main Factors Determining Prognosis

Ming-Chian Tsai, MD; Chi-Chuan Wu, MD; Chih-Wen Hsiao, MD; Jau-Wen Huang, MD; Hsuan-Kai Kao, MD; Yu-Tun Hsu, MD

Ipsilateral femoral neck and shaft fracture is a rare and complicated fracture pattern. From 1999 to 2005, 37 adult patients with 37 ipsilateral femoral neck and shaft fractures were treated with reconstruction intramedullary nails. Thirty-two patients completed the follow up. The union rates of the neck and shaft fractures were 90.6% and 78.1% ($p = 0.11$). The average union time of the neck and shaft fractures were 16 weeks and 35 weeks, respectively ($p < 0.001$). The mean union time was 34.2 weeks for the mildly-injured shaft group, and 42 weeks for the -severely-injured shaft group ($p = 0.024$). No neck or shaft malunion, osteonecrosis of the femoral head or wound infection occurred. The outcome of this combined fracture depended primarily on the result of treatment of the femoral shaft fracture. More meticulous management of the shaft fracture, neck reduction and post-op protective weight bearing may improve the outcome and reduce complications.

CASE REPORTS

574 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention of A Stenotic Left Anterior Descending Artery with Anomalous Origin of Right Coronary Artery

Shu-Kai Hsueh, MD; Ali A Youssef, MD; Chi-Yuan Fang, MD

The anomalous origin of the right coronary artery (RCA) from the left anterior descending (LAD) artery is rare. We report a case of single coronary artery with proximal LAD severe stenosis. The RCA originated from an unreported course of conal branch from the LAD. This anomalous RCA also had collaterals from left circumflex. Coronary intervention was successfully carried out on a severe stenosis at the proximal LAD artery. To the best of our knowledge the scenario of anomalous course and intervention is still to be reported.

579 Hepatic Artery-duodenal Fistula with Gastrointestinal Bleeding after Liver Transplantation

Ruey-Shyang Soong, MD; Kuang-Tse Pan, MD; Chen-Fang Lee, MD; Wei-Chen Lee, MD

Gastrointestinal bleeding caused by peptic ulcer or portal hypertension is a serious complication in liver transplant recipients. However, Gastrointestinal bleeding from hepatic artery origin after liver transplantation is rare. We report duodenal massive bleeding secondary to erosion of hepatic artery after liver transplantation in two patients. This was diagnosed by angiography and treated subsequently by surgical intervention with hepatic artery re-anastomosis. We could not salvage one of these patients who died of complications of graft failure. Therefore, early diagnosis and aggressive surgical intervention may be required in order to salvage both recipient and graft.

584 INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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