

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Dear Colleague—

'March Madness' usually refers to the NCAA Basketball Tournament but this year it could also refer to the happenings in Washington, DC! I've sat through numerous meetings with consultants explaining what the new healthcare law would mean to our industry...to only find last Friday that we will continue with the ACA for the foreseeable future. Whether you were for or against repealing and replacing the law there is one thing for sure, indecision unsettles markets and makes it hard to plan for the future. I hope our 'elected representatives' can find a way to start working together instead of grand standing for fringe movements on both the far sides of the argument. Thank God our founding fathers found a way to compromise!

OK, enough of the rant. We recently had the ACC (coincidentally in DC) so there is a lot of great cardiology information in this month's newsletter. Next month is the ATA (Telemedicine) in Orlando. We plan on being there so we can bring you the latest on what's happening in the telemedicine world.

We hope you enjoy the letter, please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

Best regards,



Robert J. Stille
President, CEO
HeartCare Imaging, Inc.

CARDIOLOGY

Transradial, Same Day Discharge Cardiac Care Drops Costs by \$3.7K

A new study in the JACC: cardiovascular Interventions revealed that using the wrist as the surgical site and same day discharge could significantly decrease cardiac care costs related to percutaneous catheter insertions (PCIs) without taking away from care quality.

<http://revcycleintelligence.com/news/transradial-same-day-discharge-cardiac-care-drops-costs-by-3.7k>

Heart Attack Survivors Don't Keep Up with Exercise

The PULSE study gave 620 patients hospitalized for an ACS an Actical accelerometer, a wristwatch-like device providing activity counts in 1-minute intervals throughout the day. Only 16% of patients met physical activity guidelines at 5 weeks post-discharge, according to Ian M. Kronish, MD, MPH, of Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/cardiology/acute-coronary-syndrome/63451>

Study Finds Women are Less Likely to have Heart Checked

The study of more than 53,000 people at 60 sites in Australia found men were significantly more likely to be screened for heart disease risk factors, while women were screened 12 percent less than men.

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2017/03/01/Study-finds-women-are-less-likely-to-have-heart-checked/3741488381441/

Dietary Factors Tied to Deaths from Heart Disease, Type Two Diabetes

Ten Dietary factors were linked to cardiometabolic mortality in the U.S., including type 2 diabetes, stroke, and heart disease, according to researchers.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/endocrinology/diabetes/63641>

New PET radiotracer identifies inflammation in life-threatening atherosclerosis

In the featured article of the March 2017 issue of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine, researchers demonstrate that a new positron emission tomography (PET) radiotracer, gallium-68 (Ga-68)-pentixafor, can quickly and non-invasively identify life-threatening atherosclerotic plaques. The tracer binds to the CXCR4 receptor on inflammatory cells present in atherosclerotic plaques—making it possible to find and treat atherosclerosis early.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-03-pet-radiotracer-inflammation-life-threatening-atherosclerosis.html>

HEALTH

Immune Disorder Such as MS, Psoriasis May Be Tied to Dementia Risk

Researchers found that 18 out of 25 different autoimmune disease, such as lupus, psoriasis, or multiple sclerosis “showed a statistically significant association with dementia,” said study co-author Dr. Michael Goldacre. He's a professor of public health at the University of Oxford.

<https://consumer.healthday.com/diseases-and-conditions-information-37/immune-disorder-news-404/immune-disorders-such-as-ms-psoriasis-may-be-tied-to-dementia-risk-720235.html>

AAD: A Skin-Based Test for Alzheimer's Disease?

Patients with Alzheimer's disease had significantly higher levels of the disease-associated protein phosphorylated Tau (P-tau) in buccal mucosal swabs as compared with a normal control group, a small preliminary study showed.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/aad/63599>

Some Health Fads May Not Be All that Healthy

Vegetable juices, coconut oil have downsides, and gluten-free makes little difference in those without the sensitivity, study finds

<https://consumer.healthday.com/vitamins-and-nutrition-information-27/food-and-nutrition-news-316/some-health-fads-may-not-be-all-that-healthy-720117.html>

Cryoablation Shows Promise for Vascular Malformation TX

Cryoablation was safe and effective for treating painful low-flow vascular malformation, and may be a viable alternative to traditional treatments, such as sclerotherapy, temporary local steroid injections, and surgical resection, according to the preliminary experiences of two centers.

https://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/SIR/63682?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2017-03-08&eun=g1126830d0r&pos=3

Migraine Tied to Neck Artery Dissection in Stroke

In young adults with first-ever ischemic stroke, migraine was independently associated with spontaneous cervical artery dissection, the researchers reported. Risk for spontaneous arterial dissection was mainly driven by the migraine subtype without aura, and this risk was greater in men and in patients age 39 and younger, Alessandro Pezzini, MD.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/neurology/migraines/63622>

Sudden drops in blood pressure may increase risk of dementia

Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, currently ranks as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. In fact, it is estimated that 1 in 3 U.S. elders dies with a form of dementia. New research indicated that middle aged people who experience sudden drops in their blood pressure may be at risk of developing dementia and serious cognitive decline when they reach old age.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/neurology/migraines/63622>

Probiotic supplementation may reduce hypertension, dyslipidemia in type 2 diabetes

Adults with type 2 diabetes randomly assigned to probiotic supplementation saw a small reduction in blood pressure, total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels compared with those assigned a placebo, according to a meta-analysis.

<http://www.healio.com/endocrinology/diabetes/news/in-the-journals/78778fb59d-6481-4f50-a144-bf83f47bbe0%7D/probiotic-supplementation-may-reduce-hypertension-dyslipidemia-in-type-2-diabetes>

Hodgkin Lymphoma: Intensifying Treatment With Rituximab After PET

Adjusting treatment dose after 2 courses of first-line therapy based on a positive PET scan does not improve progression-free survival among patients with advanced stage Hodgkin Lymphoma, according to a study published in The Lancet Oncology. It is unclear under what conditions to intensify treatment for patients with Hodgkin Lymphoma after initial chemotherapy.

<http://www.cancertherapyadvisor.com/lymphoma/hodgkin-lymphoma-rituximab-after-pet-treatment-intense/article/639652/>

Internet-Based CBT Effective for Depressive Symptoms

Self-guided internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy (iCBT) is effective for treating adults with depressive symptoms, according to a review published online in JAMA Psychiatry.

<http://www.physiciansbriefing.com/Article.asp?AID=720010>

New DNA Vaccine Designed to Boost Immunity and Fight off Tumors

Using modified DNA sequence, the new WT1 DNA vaccine is explicitly designed to improve immune responses against Wilm's tumor gene 1 (WT1), a tumor-associated antigen seen in several types of cancer, which experts believe plays a pivotal part in tumor development.

<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/199265/20170226/new-dna-vaccine-designed-to-boost-immunity-and-fight-off-tumors.htm>

Making the Connection: Videoconferencing Delivers Oncology Nutrition Services to Rural Patients

When patients with high-risk cancer have limited access to registered dietitians, it may be difficult for them to follow through on a nutrition plan set by their healthcare team. However, a recent study of a program launched by the Levine Cancer Institute found that telenutrition services can offer a beneficial alternative

<http://nursing.onclive.com/conference-coverage/2017-cancer-survivorship-symposium/making-the-connection-videoconferencing-delivers-oncology-nutrition-services-to-rural-patients>

Cetuximab effective in advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

Cetuximab appears to be effective for treating advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, despite the rarity of oncogenic mutations, researchers from France report.

<http://www.manageyourhealthcareconnect.com/content/cetuximab-effective-advanced-cutaneous-squamous-cell-carcinoma>

'We Know What to Do' — Cancer Prevention Must be Implemented

The US cancer burden could be reduced right now if known cancer prevention strategies were implemented, public health experts say.

The lack of implementation of effective cancer prevention strategies means that people are getting cancer that could be prevented and are dying of cancer that could be prevented, he emphasized.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/876975>

BUSINESS

Hospice Utilization Continues to Decline Nationwide

Specifically, hospice utilization among Medicare-eligible patients nationwide totaled about 2.55% in 2015, down from 2.59% in 2014 and 2.67% in 2013, according to a new analysis from Healthcare Market Resources.

<http://homehealthcarenews.com/2017/03/hospice-utilization-continues-to-decline-nationwide/>

New Report predicts “troubling” shortage of Doctors in the U.S.

The report estimates a shortfall ranging from 34,600 to 88,000 doctors by 2025, compared to what our growing and aging population may need. By 2030, the shortfall is expected to total anywhere from 40,800 to 104,900 doctors.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/doctor-shortage-us-impact-on-health/>

POLITICS THAT AFFECT

MEDICINE

Lawmakers signal fight for healthcare reform is not over

The sentiment came after President Trump this weekend signaled he would move on to other legislative priorities—such as tax reform— and put healthcare reform aside in the aftermath of the chaotic week.

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/375844-lawmakers-signal-fight-for-healthcare-reform-is-not-over>

CMS nominee moves on a party-line vote toward confirmation

On a vote of 13 to 12, with every Democrat in opposition, Verma's nomination now move to the full Senate, where the Republican majority has been moving swiftly to give its seal of approval to each of President Trump's nominees who have come to a floor vote.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/cms-nominee-moves-on-a-party-line-vote-toward-confirmation/2017/03/02/4c909662-4e98-11e6-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html?utm_term=.c780c27184838wplsrclni_3p_smartbrief

Trump will Nominate Scott Gottlieb to lead FDA

President Trump will nominate Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a longtime drug industry financier and advocate for deregulation, to run the Food and Drug Administration, the White House said Friday.

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/10/scott-gottlieb-fda-donald-trump/>

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