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IN BRIEF

BONE

Breastfeeding protects against hip fracture later in life
 Pregnancy and breastfeeding have no long-term deleterious effects on bone, shows a study in 4,681 postmenopausal women aged 50–94 years. Using Cox's proportional hazard models, the researchers of the Tromsø study found that breastfeeding could even contribute to a reduced risk of hip fracture after menopause. Compared with women who did not breastfeed after birth ($n=184$), those who breastfed ($n=3,564$) had a 50% reduced risk of hip fracture.

Original article Bjørnerem, A. et al. Breastfeeding protects against hip fracture in postmenopausal women: the Tromsø study. *J. Bone Miner. Res.* doi:10.1002/jbmr.496

DIABETES

Novel human pancreatic β -cell line

French researchers have genetically engineered a human pancreatic β -cell line that secretes insulin after stimulation with glucose or other insulin secretagogues. Transplantation of these cells into mice reversed chemically induced diabetes mellitus. Using targeted oncogenesis in human fetal tissue, Ravassard et al. have generated a unique tool for large-scale drug discovery and potentially provided a preclinical model for cell replacement therapy in diabetes mellitus.

Original article Ravassard, P. et al. A genetically engineered human pancreatic β cell line exhibiting glucose-inducible insulin secretion. *J. Clin. Invest.* 121, 3589–3597 (2011)

CARDIOVASCULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY

Low testosterone levels are associated with CVD risk

Low testosterone and high 17β -estradiol levels are associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk and CVD-related mortality, according to a meta-analysis by Corona and colleagues. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies revealed that patients with CVD have significantly lower testosterone and higher 17β -estradiol levels than healthy individuals.

Original article Corona, G. et al. Hypogonadism as a risk factor for cardiovascular mortality in men: a meta-analytic study. *Eur. J. Endocrinol.* doi:10.1530/EJE-11-0447

CANCER

Short telomeres are a consistent feature of PTC

Short telomeres are a consistent feature of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC), which, in familial cases, is not restricted to tumor tissue, suggesting that familial PTC has a distinct, heritable, genetic background. Relative telomere length was compared between 30 patients with familial PTC and 46 patients with sporadic PTC. Mean relative telomere length in patients with familial PTC was shorter than that found in sporadic PTC tissues. In patients with sporadic but not with familial PTC, the mean relative telomere length in neoplastic thyroid tissue was significantly shorter than that found in normal contralateral tissues and extrathyroidal tissues.

Original article Capezzone, M. et al. Telomere length in neoplastic and nonneoplastic tissues of patients with familial and sporadic papillary thyroid cancer. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* doi:10.1210/jc.2011-1003