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IN BRIEF

LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

Randomized trial of two antifungal prophylaxis treatments in liver transplant recipients

Invasive fungal infections are a common problem in liver transplant recipients. Winston *et al.* performed a randomized, double-blind trial of anidulafungin versus fluconazole in 200 high-risk liver transplant recipients. Both drugs were well tolerated, and graft rejection, fungal-free survival and mortality were similar in both groups. However, anidulafungin was associated with less *Aspergillus* colonization, and with fewer breakthrough invasive fungal infections in patients who had received pretransplant fluconazole.

Original article Winston, D. J. *et al.* Randomized, double-blind trial of anidulafungin versus fluconazole for prophylaxis of invasive fungal infections in high-risk liver transplant recipients. *Am. J. Transplant.* doi:10.1111/ajt.12963

BARRETT OESOPHAGUS

Two new polymorphisms associated with Barrett oesophagus

A genome-wide association study aimed to identify novel single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with an increased risk of Barrett oesophagus as well as validate previously reported associations. Genotype analysis was performed in 10,158 patients with Barrett oesophagus and 21,062 controls. Two new SNPs were identified in genes that encode transcription factors involved in thoracic, diaphragmatic and oesophageal development, or proteins involved in the inflammatory response.

Original article Palles, C. *et al.* Polymorphisms near *TBX5* and *GDF7* are associated with increased risk for Barrett's esophagus. *Gastroenterology* doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2014.10.041

GASTRIC CANCER

Distinct tumour signatures observed in Asian and non-Asian patients with gastric cancer

Differences in clinical outcomes for Asian and non-Asian patients with gastric cancer might not be solely due to differences in clinical management, as previously thought. Gene expression profiles of 1,016 gastric cancers from six Asian and three non-Asian cohorts were compared, and the findings validated in two independent tissue microarray cohorts from Asian and non-Asian localities. Asian and non-Asian patients were found to exhibit distinct tumour immunity signatures that might have an influence on clinical outcomes.

Original article Lin, S. J. *et al.* Signatures of tumour immunity distinguish Asian and non-Asian gastric adenocarcinomas. *Gut* doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2014-308252

INFECTION

Underdiagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* infection in Europe

482 hospitals across 20 European countries were questioned about their methods and testing policy for *Clostridium difficile* infection. Furthermore, on one winter day and one summer day, each hospital sent all diarrhoeal samples to a national coordinating laboratory for standardized testing. 23% of samples positive for *C. difficile* infection according to the national laboratory were not diagnosed by the hospitals. The researchers estimate that ~40,000 inpatients with *C. difficile* infection are potentially undiagnosed each year.

Original article Davies, K.A. *et al.* Underdiagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* across Europe: the European, multicentre, prospective, biannual, point-prevalence study of *Clostridium difficile* infection in hospitalized patients with diarrhoea (EUCLID). *Lancet Infect. Dis.* doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(14)70991-0