

Letters to the Editor

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NSAIDs for Relieving Renal Colic in Patients with Kidney Stones

Original Article: Treatment and Prevention of Kidney Stones: An Update

Issue Date: December 1, 2011

Available at: <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2011/1201/p1234.html>

TO THE EDITOR: Drs. Frassetto and Kohlstadt provide a useful summary of kidney stone management. However, their discussion of pain control is limited to opioid analgesics and suggests avoiding nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) because of their effects on renal blood flow and glomerular filtration rate. Although there are patients in whom NSAIDs should be used with caution or avoided (e.g., patients with chronic kidney disease), there is inadequate evidence demonstrating significant harms from NSAIDs in patients with renal colic.

A Cochrane review concluded that both NSAIDs and opioids provide effective relief from renal colic. Some evidence suggested that NSAIDs were more effective, and that opioid use was associated with more adverse effects, mainly vomiting.¹ Trials included in this Cochrane review did not directly assess gastrointestinal bleeding or worsening of renal function. However, these potential adverse effects were infrequent in the Cochrane review and in a previously published meta-analysis of NSAIDs for renal colic.²

Treatment harms are important, and trials designed to show if NSAIDs pose a risk in kidney stone treatment would be helpful. However, based on a paucity of evidence that NSAIDs are harmful in most patients with kidney stones, physicians should not exclude NSAIDs as an option for relieving renal colic.

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2. Labrecque M, Dostaler LP, Rousselle R, Nguyen T, Poirier S. Efficacy of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in the treatment of acute renal colic: a meta-analysis. *Arch Intern Med*. 1994;154(12):1381-1387.

Corrections

The article "Outpatient Burns: Prevention and Care" (January 1, 2012, page 25) contained an error in Table 3 on page 30. Transcyte is no longer available in the United States and should not be included in the list of commonly used topical medications and wound membranes. Reference 32 was included with the statement on the characteristics of Transcyte, and with removal of this product from the table, reference 32 should also be removed. The references for the table should be 1, 6, 10, 12, 24 through 31, and 33 through 36. The online version of this article has been corrected.

In the May 1, 2012 CME Quiz (page 871), quiz questions 9 (page 873) and 10 (page 872) appeared out of order. Question 10, pertaining to Cochrane for Clinicians: Putting Evidence into Practice, should actually be question 9. Question 9, pertaining to Implementing AHRQ Effective Health Care Reviews, should actually be question 10. Based on this, the "Answers to This Issue's CME Quiz" box located at the end of Practice Guidelines (page 923) is incorrect. The answer for question 9 should be A, and the answer for question 10 should be A and C. The online version of the CME Quiz has been corrected. ■