

Disease Pattern In India

Blood Tumour Markers and Now Stool Tumour Marker!

OP Kapoor

I am very happy to note that cancer of the colon, which is one of the commonest cancers, can now be diagnosed by stool test called as Stool DNA which is the tumour marker of the colon cancer.

Many of my patients used to refuse colonoscopy or grumble too much after the

Ex. Hon. Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Bombay Hospital, Mumbai. Ex. Hon. Prof. of Medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Mumbai 400 008.

test saying that they will never go again for this test. The reason is not the procedure of colonoscopy, which is relatively less painful with the modern fibre optic instruments-but the use of 'Peglec', after which the patient passes very large stools and develops weakness and exhaustion, which is not acceptable to most of the patients.

I hope the modern laboratories in Mumbai start carrying out this test.

DRONEDARONE FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION - AN ODYSSEY

Several clinical trials comparing dronedarone with placebo or amiodarone were reviewed at the advisory committee meeting. Two studies, EURIDIS and ADONIS, assessed the efficacy of dronedarone in maintaining sinus rhythm in patients with nonpermanent atrial fibrillation or flutter and no clinically significant structural heart disease or heart failure. There was a rate of recurrent atrial fibrillation of 64% with dronedarone as compared with a rate of 75% with placebo.

Peter J Zimetbaum, N Engl J Med, 2009; 360 : 1811-13.

CD4+COUNT AND ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY FOR HIV

The timing of the initiation of antiretroviral therapy in asymptomatic patients with HIV infection is unclear. In this retrospective study involving patients in North America from 1996 through 2005, the deferral of therapy until the patient's CD4+count had fallen below one of the two thresholds of interest (a range of 351 to 500 cells or > 500 cells per cubic millimeter) was associated with a relative hazard of death of 1.66 and 1.56, respectively.

N Engl J Med, 2009; 360 : 1815, 1808, 1897.