Welcome

Palliative Pearls is a monthly newsletter featuring hospice and palliative care clinical case-studies. This month's Palliative Pearls features a case highlighting *Medication Selection for Patients on Ketogenic Diets*.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future topics. You can submit your ideas here. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues who can subscribe to receive this via email monthly here.

Educational Case Review

Medication Selection for Patients on Ketogenic Diets

SK is a 16 month old boy admitted to hospice with a primary diagnosis of Sandhoff disease. He has a history of epilepsy and malnutrition and weighs 11.2kg (24.8 lbs). SK has been on and off service since he was 9 months old and has no other health conditions or known drug allergies. He lives at home with his parents and 2 older sisters.

Seizures are a common complication of Sandhoff disease and SK was initiated on a ketogenic diet to help manage them. In accordance with the diet, many liquid medications were switched to tablet dosage forms to limit the amount of carbohydrates. SK is prescribed glycerin suppositories as needed for constipation, however glycerin is not recommended for patients on [...] **Continue reading**

In case you missed last month's case highlighting medication administration by feeding tube, **click here.**

Next month's case highlights wound odor management.

Hospice Clinical Alerts

Clinical News Alerts include summaries of "hot off the press" literature with links to articles, together with important regulatory and business-related updates. Check Enclara Pharmacia's Clinical News page regularly to remain up to date in the field.

Hospice-Appropriate Universal Precautions for Opioid Safety

Universal precautions for opioid safety, similar to universal precautions for infection control, is one approach to addressing the epidemic of prescription pain medication misuse that some pain clinics, primary care practices, and hospices have used. In this study published in the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, a set of hospice-appropriate universal precautions was designed, drawing on hospice nursing strengths, and implemented in a midsize hospice agency. The universal precautions include [...] **Continue reading**

Patient-focused Outcomes Key Goals in Research on Palliative Care in Surgery

Surgical patients frequently have significant palliative care needs, however they are less likely to receive palliative care compared to medical patients. In this study published in the *Annals of Surgery*, researchers from several medical subspecialties joined to describe the existing science of palliative care in surgery within three priority areas and expose specific gaps within the field. They highlight the need to [...] **Continue reading**

Geriatric Infectious Diseases: Current Concepts on Diagnosis and Management

New information on infectious diseases in older adults has become available in the past 20 years. This review presents in-depth discussions on the general problem of geriatric infectious diseases (epidemiology, pathogenesis, age-related host defenses, clinical manifestations, diagnostic approach); diagnosis and management of bacterial pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and *Clostridium difficile* infection; and the unique challenges of diagnosing and managing infections in [...] **Continue reading**

Hospice in the News

Hospice in the News contain links to the latest trending news about the hospice and palliative care community.

LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care

Kimberly Acquaviva's new book *LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice & Palliative Care: A Practical Guide to Transforming Professional Practice* hit shelves on May 1, 2017. This book gives palliative care and hospice physicians, advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, social workers, counselors, and chaplains clear, actionable strategies to transform the care of all patients so that it's truly LGBTQ-inclusive.

Link to LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care (5/2017)