Probable Transmission of HIV from an Orthopedic Surgeon to a Patient in France
In October 1995, the French Ministry of Health offered HIV testing to patients who had been operated on by an orthopedic surgeon in whom AIDS was recently diagnosed. The one HIV-positive patient identified was HIV-negative before surgery and had viral sequences closely related to those obtained from the surgeon. This finding suggests that the surgeon may have transmitted HIV to this patient during surgery.

Chelation Therapy for Patients with Elevated Body Lead Burden and Progressive Renal Insufficiency. A Randomized, Controlled Trial
J.-L. Lin, H.-H. Ho, and C.-C. Yu
Chelation therapy appears to slow the progression of renal insufficiency in patients with mildly elevated body lead burden. This implies that long-term exposure to low levels of environmental lead may be associated with impaired renal function in patients with chronic renal disease.

G.W. Petty, R.D. Brown Jr., J.P. Whisnant, J.D. Sicks, W.M. O’Fallon, and D.O. Wiebers
In this study, complication rates for warfarin and intravenous heparin given for secondary stroke prevention were lower than rates reported from earlier trials and observational studies. For warfarin, however, these rates were higher than those found in more recent randomized trials. Rates were higher for heparin than for aspirin and warfarin. These rates can be used to judge the applicability of complication rates derived from ongoing clinical trials.

Physiologic Left Ventricular Cavity Dilatation in Elite Athletes
A. Pelliccia, F. Culasso, F.M. Di Paolo, and B.J. Maron
In a sample of highly trained athletes, left ventricular cavity dimension varied widely but was strikingly increased to a degree compatible with primary dilated cardiomyopathy in almost 15% of patients. When systolic dysfunction is absent, this dilatation is probably an extreme physiologic adaptation to intensive athletic conditioning.

Comparison of Culture-Confirmed Erythema Migrants Caused by Borrelia burgdorferi sensu stricto in New York State and by Borrelia afzelii in Slovenia
Erythema migrants caused by Borrelia afzelii in Slovenia and erythema migrants caused by B. burgdorferi in New York have distinct clinical presentations. Caution should be used when clinical and laboratory experience from one side of the Atlantic is applied to patients on the other side.

Misdiagnosis of HIV Infection by HIV-1 Plasma Viral Load Testing: A Case Series
J.D. Rich, N.A. Merriman, E. Mylonakis, T.C. Greenough, T.P. Flanigan, B.J. Mady, and C.C.J. Carpenter
The availability of sensitive assays for plasma HIV viral load and the trend toward earlier and more aggressive treatment of HIV infection have led to the inappropriate use of these assays as primary tools for the diagnosis of acute HIV infection. Physicians should be cautious when using these assays to detect primary HIV infection, especially when the pretest probability of infection is low.

Effect of Inhaled Nitric Oxide on Gas Exchange in Patients with Congestive Heart Failure. A Randomized, Controlled Trial
In this study, nitric oxide inhalation improved gas exchange in patients with congestive heart failure. This treatment may be useful as supportive therapy when other conventional vasodilators worsen gas exchange.

Occupational Exposures to Body Fluids among Medical Students. A Seven-Year Longitudinal Study
E.H.S. Osborn, M.A. Papadakis, and J.L. Gerberding
Medical students may be at high risk for occupational exposures to blood. This study found that instruction in universal precautions is not sufficient to prevent exposures to blood during medical training. Medical schools must assume greater responsibility for ensuring that students are proficient in the safe conduct of clinical procedures and must develop systems so that students can report and learn from their mistakes.

(Continued on page I-2)
Among the many topics related to hepatology that gained attention in 1997, this Update focuses on viral hepatitis, other types of liver disease, complications of cirrhosis, and liver transplantation.

**HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

The Wenckebach Phenomenon: A Salute and Comment on the Centennial of Its Original Description

C.B. Upshaw Jr. and M.E. Silverman

In 1899, Karel F. Wenckebach unraveled the complicated arrhythmia that bears his name. He is remembered for his insight into atrioventricular circulation, which is as valid today as it was a century ago.

**EDITORIALS**

Provider-to-Patient HIV Transmission: How To Keep It Exceedingly Rare

J. Gerberding

In this issue, Lot and colleagues report what they believe to be the first case of HIV transmission from an infected surgeon to a patient during a surgical procedure. It is reassuring that this is only the second reported instance of an infected health care provider transmitting HIV to a patient. Rational prevention policies will further reduce this very small risk.

Protecting the Future of Medicine—from Themselves

D.D. Federman

Medical students participate actively in patient care and thus incur some of the risks of experienced physicians, especially the risk for exposure to bloodborne viruses. As a result, schools must train their students in safe procedures and establish response capacities for any break in technique that leads to a possible exposure to bloodborne pathogens. In this issue, Osborn and colleagues describe an outstanding approach to this problem.

Adenocarcinoma of the Esophagus and Gastric Cardia: Is There Progress in the Face of Increasing Cancer Incidence?

R.E. Sampliner

Our understanding of the molecular biology of adenocarcinoma of the esophagus and gastric cardia and of Barrett esophagus is increasing. However, the cause of the increasing incidence of adenocarcinoma is not yet known, and this limits our ability to intervene to reduce the incidence.

**ON BEING A DOCTOR**

Curiosity

F.T. Fitzgerald

What is the relation between “humaneness” and curiosity? How is curiosity suppressed in medical students and physicians?

**ON BEING A PATIENT**

Lester's Getting a Bottle

K. Luther

After hospitalization for pancreatitis, Henry returns to the hotel where he lives and faces the challenge not to drink.

**LETTERS**

Appropriateness of Spinal Manipulation

P.G. Hill; M.M. LaBan and R.S. Taylor; L. Sportelli; P.G. Shekelle, L.A. Coulter, and R.H. Brook

The Medical Consultant's Role in Caring for Patients with Hip Fracture

K.G. Zaveri; R.S. Morrison, M.R. Chassin, and A.L. Siu

Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin for Treating Venous Thromboembolism

M.S. Mahoney and M. Kahn; M.M.W. Koopman and H.R. Bu¨ller

Static Electricity Stops a Recalcitrant Arrhythmia

T. Screnock

Ocular Venous Occlusion and Hyperhomocysteinemia

E.L.E. de Bruijne, G.H.J.C. Keulen-de Vos, and R.J.T. Ouwendijk

Giant-Cell Arteritis Presenting as Mondor Disease

E.J. Diamantopoulos, G. Yfanti, and E. Andreadis

AIDS Exceptionalism

R.K. Bolan; M. Bessesen and M. McCollum; R. Frothingham; D. Casarett and J. Lantos

Characteristics of Primary HIV Infection

A.A. Silvers; L. Corey and T. Schacker

The Death of House Officers

C. Hsu; A. Naidech; F.T. Fitzgerald

**MEDICAL WRITINGS**

End-of-Life Care in Medical Textbooks

A.T. Carron, J. Lynn, and P. Keaney

Improvement in end-of-life care has become a demand of the public and a priority for health care professionals. Medical textbooks could support this improvement by functioning as educational resources and reference material. This paper evaluates four widely used general internal medicine textbooks for their coverage of the clinical management of patients in advanced stages of fatal illnesses.

Book Notes

Information for Authors

Authors' Form
Transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from an infected health-care worker to patients is rare (1), with the greatest potential for occurrence during exposure-prone, invasive surgical procedures in which the blood of the health-care worker might come into contact with patients’ blood or mucous membranes. When a surgeon is discovered to have HIV infection, a decision must be made about notification of patients, but only limited data are available to guide decision-making.