

GULF MEDICAL JOURNAL

Editorial

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This issue of the journal brings a collection of studies from the common to the not so common conditions that continue to present in the general and specialty practice in the Gulf region. These diseases continue to interest the scientific community as they try to investigate the cause-and-effects relationships to increase the awareness of these conditions to decrease the burden of the disease for not only the individual patient but also the community as a whole.

Anecdotal reports of adverse drug reactions serve as beacons of light that continue to alert medical practitioners of the need to always watch out and be ready to manage these unexpected complications arising as a result of medical treatment. A report on the patterns of cutaneous ADRs seen over a 2-year period highlights a wide clinical spectrum of the disease and the associated drugs, in particular, antibiotics and NSAIDs.

On a similar vein the judicious use of antibiotics in the prevention of emergence of drug resistant strains cannot be overemphasized. This study reports the presence of extended spectrum beta-lactamases in clinical isolates of gram-negative bacilli infections in the hospital settings that contributed largely to third generation cephalosporin resistance.

The Diabetic epidemic has overtaken the Middle East countries just like the developed countries of the West. The western lifestyle, the consumption of calorie-rich foods associated with the growing popularity of fast foods served in the food courts in the shopping malls, the sedentary life of both the white collar workers in the work place

and the sit-at-home spouses is taking a heavy toll on the community in these countries. The findings of two studies undertaken in this area are presented.

The first report stresses on the efforts of the Diabetes Kuwait Resource Center to address the need to address the need to increase the awareness that this disease can be prevented and disease progression delayed at the level of the individuals. The next study highlights the knowledge and health practices of a segment of the Indian expatriates that form a large majority of the immigrant diaspora in the GCC countries.

An interesting study that highlights attitudes towards mental illness highlights the effects of labels and associations with materialism in this highly consumer-oriented society.

Four case reports highlight the rare conditions that continue to challenge our day-to-day medical practice. The management of a benign teratoma of the fallopian tube, a uretero-cutaneous fistula, a case of lead poisoning due to herbal remedy for infertility and a calvarial meningioma are presented.

The issue ends with a point of debate on the use of intra-articular injections cortisone, hyaluronic acid or platelet-rich-plasma in the treatment of Osteoarthritis of the knee.

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