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Bratisl Lek Listy 2005; 106 (3)

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Ubiquitin – the kiss of death goes Nobel. Will you be quitting?

Behuliak M, Celec P, Gardlik R, Palffy R 93

The ubiquitin system is one of the most interesting research fields in molecular biomedicine. The importance is given by its ubiquitous presence in every eukaryotic cell, the conserved character in the evolution and the regulatory role that affects most other cellular processes. Although the significance of ubiquitination in cellular physiology and pathophysiology is undoubted, the use in clinical medicine is still in its beginning. Nevertheless, as future research will bring new insights into the regulatory role of ubiquitination, the biomedical applications of the results will win more importance.

Experimental Study

The effect of chemical stimulation of esophageal mucosa on citric acid induced cough and specific airway resistance in guinea pig models

Kollarik M, Plevkova J, Brozmanova M, Revallo M, Varechova S, Bartos V, Plank L, Tatar M ... 101

This study was designed to investigate the effect of intraesophageal (IE) administration of capsaicin on cough and specific airway resistance (Saw) in guinea pigs. Esophageal stimulation with capsaicin did not trigger and/or modulate CA induced cough and Saw in guinea pigs models.

Clinical Studies

Erythrocyte antioxidant enzymes in patients with alcohol dependence syndrome

Bogdanska J, Todorova B, Labudovic D, Korneti 107

PG In order to find if the erythrocyte antioxidant enzymes may serve as a biological indicators of alcohol dependence syndrome superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase and catalase activities were measured in patients with alcohol dependence syndrome. Only catalase has shown statistically significant decrease of the activity in alcoholics in comparison with the control group.

Neuroendoscopic management of haematocephalus

Novak Z, Nadvornik P, Chrastina J, Riha I 114

Minimally invasive stereotactically navigated endoscopy was used in the treatment of patients with haematocephalus. The success rate was gratifying in these risky patients and there were no surgical complication even in polymorbid patients. The benefit of the endoscopic surgery is evident both in acute phase, when the main advantage is immediate deliberation of cerebrospinal fluid circulation pathways, and in the subsequent period, when the incidence of posthaemorrhagic hydrocephalus requiring shunting is substantially reduced, because the endoscopic removal of blood is supplemented with endoscopic third ventriculostomy.

Clinical Review

Pneumococcal vaccination – current situation and perspectives

Madar R, Strakova J, Baska T, Kavcova E, Straka S 119

Survey of 154 out-patients and hospitalised patients revealed very low pneumococcal vaccination coverage ranging between 0–9.3 % in individuals with risk factors for developing invasive pneumococcal infection. In an anonymous questionnaire to general practitioners, 74 (94.9 %) admitted a lack of information about pneumococcal vaccine and 22 (28.2 %) expressed distrust towards vaccination of any kind.

Topical Reviews

Serum laboratory markers for noninvasive diagnosis and monitoring of liver fibrogenesis in patients with chronic liver diseases

Vozař I 123

Determining the stage of liver fibrosis is an important issue in managing the patients with chronic hepatopathies. The review summarizes current information on laboratory tests used for noninvasive diagnosis and monitoring of liver fibrosis.

Matrix metalloproteinases: their biological functions and clinical implications

Hijova E 127

The pathological effects of MMPs and TIMPs in cardiovascular diseases involve vascular remodelling, atherosclerotic plaque instability and cardiac remodelling in congestive heart failure or after myocardial infarction. Since excessive tissue remodelling and increased matrix metalloproteinases activity have been demonstrated during atherosclerotic lesion progression (including plaque disruption), MMPs represent a potential target for therapeutic intervention aimed at the modification of vascular pathology by restoring the physiological balance between MMPs and TIMPs. Recent findings suggest that MMPs are also involved in cancer initiation, invasion and metastasis; MMP inhibitors could be considered for evaluation as cancer chemopreventive molecules.

Pharmacology Informations

The Slovak Drug Information (Druginfo) Centre during the period 1997–2004

Wawruch M, Bozekova L, Tisonova J, Raganova A, Lassanova M, Hudec R, Vojtko R, Gazova A, Kriska M .. 133

Druginfo provides independent drug information in slovak medical and pharmaceutical community. The existence of Druginfo in Slovak Republic is very important for an open access to independent drug information. The decreased interest for drug information in last three years shows the need of advertising the Druginfo activity. The result of this analysis is a challenge not only for the workers of Druginfo but also for the health care authorities. It is necessary to increase the interest of health care providers for independent drug information. This endeavour requires not only enthusiastic work of Druginfo consultants but also financial support for advertisement of Druginfo and also for obtaining extensive but expensive drug databases.

Debate and Education

The preparation of students of medical faculties and other public colleges for educative activities within the National Programme of Health Support

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Short Communications

Mitoxantrone therapy in rapidly worsening multiple sclerosis

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