

## Cardiology Alert

### Headline News

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**Two Studies Suggest a Protein Has a Big Role in Heart Disease**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/06/health/06protein.html>

Reducing the levels of a protein secreted by the body during inflammation may be as powerful in slowing heart disease and preventing heart attacks and deaths as lowering cholesterol, two teams of researchers are reporting today. The studies the New England Journal of Medicine provide the strongest evidence yet for the role of the protein, known as CRP for C-reactive protein, in heart disease

### **Depression Can Increase Risk of Repeat Heart Disease in Heart Attack Patients**

Depression can double the risk of death or repeat heart disease in heart attack patients, according to two reviews of more than 40 studies that examine the link between depression and heart disease. The reviews are published in the journal Psychosomatic Medicine. The researchers say the finding may have important clinical implications for the identification of post-heart attack patients with poor prognosis, because questionnaires are easier, faster and cheaper than psychiatric interviews.

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## **Prior Angioplasty Lowers the Risk for Heart Valve Replacement**

<http://www.acc.org/media/releases/highlights/2005/jan05/angioplasty.htm>

Angioplasty may replace bypass for more patients who are also receiving a new heart valve. The death rate during combination surgery to bypass clogged coronary arteries and simultaneously replace a heart valve in very sick patients can be as high as one in five, but a review of records of very sick patients who underwent balloon angioplasty, followed by heart valve replacement surgery, found only one death among 26 patients, according to a new study in the Jan. 4, 2005 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

## **Lifestyle Intervention Cuts Cardiac Risk Without Drug Therapy**

In a new study, a 12-week lifestyle intervention helped an ethnically diverse group of adults with hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and hyperglycemia reach their goal risk factor levels without using drug therapy.

These results "refute the notion that intensive lifestyle intervention is not worth the effort," lead author Dr. Neil F. Gordon, from St. Joseph's/Candler Health System in Savannah, Georgia, and colleagues report in the December 15th issue of The American Journal of Cardiology.

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## **EVENTS**

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ACC 54th Annual Scientific Session

March 6-9, 2005, Orlando

[http://www.acc.org/2005ann\\_meeting/home/home.htm](http://www.acc.org/2005ann_meeting/home/home.htm)

20th Annual Interventional Cardiology 2005: The International Symposium

Snowmass, CO, United States

March 21 - 25, 2005

More information:

13th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
February 5 - 8, 2005

More information:

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**CME**  
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**12th Annual State of the Art Symposium on Arrhythmias and the Heart**

January 20 - 22, 2005

Designed for cardiologists, internists, family practitioners and cardiovascular nurse specialists, the "12th Annual State-of-the-Art Symposium: Arrhythmias and the Heart" will explore approaches to diagnosis, management and prevention of common arrhythmias and a special session on heart failure and arrhythmias. Mayo Clinic and invited faculty will share "pearls" to aid in the evaluation and assessment of patients with cardiac arrhythmias. Course highlights will include a special mini-symposium on atrial fibrillation, a special session on heart failure and arrhythmias and case management discussions that emphasize preferred treatment options, including pharmacologic approaches, utilization of medical devices and catheter ablation.

**Perspectives in Women's Health 2005**

This a series of interactive video broadcasts sharing the latest developments in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that occur predominantly in women. Both continued nursing and medical education credits are offered. Archived programs may be viewed on the webcast

site. Continuing education credit is available for viewing programs aired within the past one year period.

### **Highlights of the XIV European Meeting on Hypertension**

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Released July 29, 2004 this course is valid for credit through July 29, 2005. It carries up to 0.75 AMA PRA category 1 credit(s)

The following are the contents of the course: 1) Initial Results of the VALUE Trial: Do We Have The Answers?, and 2) The Results and Implications of the VALUE Trial. An expectation at the XIV European Society of Hypertension meeting in Paris was that the VALUE trial results would provide some definitive answers -- but both the trial design and the results require some discussion

### **Hospice Referral and Care: Practical Guidance for Clinicians**

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Released September 3, 2004 this course is valid for credit through September 3, 2005. It carries up to 2.0 AMA PRA category 1 credit(s). Some of the contents include: 1) What Is Hospice?; 2) What Should You Expect From a Quality Hospice Program?; 3) Who Pays for Hospice Services?; 4) Recent Developments in Hospice Care; 5) Criteria and Eligibility for Hospice Services; and so on.

## **PDA Tools**

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### **PocketMedicine/Internal Medicine 1.0**

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PocketMedicine/Internal Medicine is a 4all-original, comprehensive guide prepared specifically for use on handheld devices. The subjects are organized under the following headings: History and Physical; Tests; Differential Diagnosis; Management; Specific Therapy; Follow-Up; Complications & Prognosis. A unique feature is the "What To Do First" guidance. An invaluable resource for use at the point of care, the program will be useful for trainees and practitioners. When your patients deserve more than 5 minutes, reach for PocketMedicine.

## **Pocket Medicine Cardiology Bundle**

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Pocket Medicine's Cardiology Bundle includes the following four applications: 1) Treatment Strategies in Cardiovascular Medicine; 2) Treatment Strategies in Interventional Cardiology; 3) Treatment Strategies in Lipidology; and 4) PocketMedicine/Internal Medicine. This application is available as electronic download.

## **Chief Complaints in Pediatrics 1.0**

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Chief Complaints in Pediatrics provides authoritative guidance on the differential diagnosis of a full range of signs and symptoms in pediatrics. The topics are organized under the following headings: Chief Complaint (Description & Definition); History of the Present Illness; Past Medical History and Family History ; Physical Examination; Differential Diagnosis (Most Common); Differential Diagnosis (Expanded); Next Steps in the Work-Up.

## **AACN Cardiac Medications Pocket Reference 2.0**

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This electronic version of the popular laminated reference card provides information on common cardiac meds including loading and maintenance dosages, indications and contraindications. An essential and indispensable reference, allowing you to clear your pockets and locate critical information in seconds.

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# **PRODUCTS**

## **Cardiolife Compact Biphasic Defibrillators**

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This compact, defibrillator provides more efficient defibrillation than conventional biphasic circuits by maintaining constant second phase pulse width for high impedance patients. It has AED with disposable pad adapter cable and disposable pads, automatic charging start for hands-free defibrillation, CPR timing sound, and optional voice prompt.

## **Coronary ClearWay**

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Atrium's NEW Coronary ClearWay™ Transcatheter Balloon Irrigation System (TBI) is a revolutionary new way to therapeutically treat the coronary vasculature. ClearWay is constructed from soft, microfibril Advanta™ PTFE material that is designed for low volume irrigation of a targeted lesion site. The ultra thin and microporous Advanta™ PTFE balloon material creates a conforming contact surface without mechanical disruption to blood flow or stent

## **HyperLite RX PCTA Catheter**

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Atrium's HyperLite™ RX PTCA catheter is a proprietary blend of next generation polymers our exclusive Powerform™ balloon technology. Coupled with a highly flexible hypo-tube shaft and seamless wire reinforced push transfer segment, HyperLite RX delivers the ultimate in precision handling and deployment.

## **CONTAK RENEWAL TR - Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy**

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The Guidant CONTAK RENEWAL® TR cardiac resynchronization therapy pacemaker (CRT-P), Models H120 and H125, is designed to provide cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT). Cardiac resynchronization therapy is for the treatment of heart failure (HF) and uses biventricular electrical stimulation to synchronize ventricular contractions.