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MORTALITY

Breast Cancer Micrometastasis – A Mortality Abstract
This article presents an analysis of a survival study done on women with a history of breast cancer and either no nodal metasteses, nodal micrometastases or nodal macrometastases, for the purpose of determining approximate life insurance ratings. In addition, a modification to the traditional method of determining the mortality rates of a comparison population is presented. .................................................. 200

Associations Between Selected Laboratory Tests and All-cause Mortality
In the context of life insurance underwriting, underwriters typically only pay attention to laboratory tests when results are beyond the normal range. This traditional view of laboratory tests has been evolving recently, as additional studies demonstrate that the results of certain laboratory tests, even in the normal range, are predictive of morbidity or mortality risk. Therefore, it would be of great interest to the underwriters whether additional mortality differentiation could be considered when laboratory test results are within the normal clinical range. The present study uses two separate datasets to evaluate the association of typical life underwriting laboratory tests and all-cause mortality. ....... 208

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Treatment of ocular melanoma (OM) prior to 1980 was primarily through enucleation. In the early 1980s, ophthalmologists and radiation oncologists began to recommend radiation therapy for small and intermediate-sized choroidal melanomas having a location amenable to this approach. Controversy over possible worsening of mortality when small to intermediate sized ocular melanomas were treated with radiation rather than traditional enucleation resulted, in 1985, in the establishment of the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study (COMS). The purpose of this article was to evaluate the mortality represented by the various presentations and treatments of ocular choroidal melanoma as evaluated in COMS. ................................................................. 221

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Recent Advances in Cardiac Stress Testing
Early detection of coronary artery disease by cardiac stress testing has been shown to reduce both morbidity and mortality. The high rate of false positive exercise ECG stress tests reduces the impact of stress testing in asymptomatic individuals and its impact on morbidity and mortality. The sensitivity and specificity of exercise with electrocardiographic (ECG) assessment of myocardial ischemia or infarction (scar), has been extended by advancing current imaging technology. This article will address new and emerging technologies utilized in CAD detection and risk-stratification. Developments in the following stress imaging areas are discussed: echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, cardiac magnetic resonance and molecular imaging as well as cardiac computed tomography (CT). ........ 227

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Malignant Neoplasm Related Mortality and Morbidity of Hypertensive Outpatients in Japanese Men and Women
Although hypertension is one of the most prevalent conditions, malignant neoplasm is the major cause of death in Japan. Recent technological advances, such as imaging and biological markers have increased the chance of early detection for certain types of cancers. This has helped to improve the prognosis of such cancers, though some types of cancers are still difficult to detect in earlier stages. In previous studies, the authors have found and reported that hypertensive outpatients had a modest improvement in overall mortality rate as compared with standard risk groups. As expected, excess mortality rates for cardiovascular disease and stroke were evident in hypertensive individuals; however, the mortality rate of malignant neoplasms was greatly reduced in hypertensive outpatients. In this study, a more precise analysis is provided as to why hypertensive outpatients have better mortality rate for malignant disease. .................... 233
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