

# Clinician's Capsules for *CJEM* 20(5)

## Variability of Renal Colic Management and Outcomes in Two Canadian Cities

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### What is known about the topic?

Optimal treatment for acute ureteral colic is unclear.

### What did this study ask?

We compared outcomes in Calgary (interventional approach) and Vancouver (medical approach).

### What did this study find?

Index intervention rates were 52% in Calgary and 7.5% in Vancouver with more ED revisits and hospitalizations during follow-up in Calgary.

### Why does this study matter to clinicians?

More standardized approach to early management may improve utilization and outcomes.

## A Comparison of Work Stressors in Higher and Lower Resourced Emergency Medicine Health Settings

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### What is known about the topic?

Emergency physicians and trainees have high rates of stress and burnout.

### What did this study ask?

How do reported stressors for emergency physicians and trainees differ between high and low resource settings?

### What did this study find?

Trainees in the low resource setting reported higher stressors. Trainees reported higher levels of stressors than specialists in general.

### Why does this study matter to clinicians?

High levels of reported stressors among trainees, and in low resource settings should be acknowledged and mitigated where possible

## Point-of-care ultrasound to diagnose appendicitis in a Canadian emergency department

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### What is known about the topic?

While computed tomography is often used, ultrasound is increasingly utilized to avoid radiation when diagnosing appendicitis.

### What did this study ask?

What are the test characteristics of emergency physician-performed point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) to diagnose appendicitis in the emergency department (ED)?

### What did this study find?

This health-records review found that POCUS has a specificity of 90.6% for diagnosing appendicitis.

### Why does this study matter to clinicians?

Using POCUS for appendicitis has the potential to decrease patient morbidity, diagnostic delays, ED length-of-stay, and need for further imaging.

## Accuracy of the Ottawa Ankle Rules Applied by Non-physician Providers in a Pediatric Emergency Department

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### What is known about the topic?

The OAR are a reliable tool to exclude fractures in children over 5 years of age when applied by physicians.

### What did this study ask?

What is the accuracy of the OAR when applied by non-physician providers (NPP's) in children.

### What did this study find?

Only one clinically significant fracture was missed by NPP's; it was detected on subsequent physician assessment.

### Why does this study matter to clinicians?

NPP's order nearly 40% of ankle radiographs thus accurate application of the OAR among NPP's is necessary to minimize unnecessary imaging.

## Using the Bergman-Paris Question to screen seniors in the emergency department

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### **What is known about the topic?**

The Bergman-Paris Question (BPQ) is a one-question screening test aiming to detect the presence of dementia in memory clinic patients.

### **What did this study ask?**

We aimed to explore the BPQ's usefulness to expose potential undetected geriatric syndromes (cognitive & functional impairment and frailty) in the ED.

### **What did this study find?**

The BPQ had a sensitivity of 85.4% and a specificity of 35.4% for the detection of 1/3 geriatric syndrome.

### **Why does this study matter to clinicians?**

A positive BPQ could help better identify patients who need further investigations in the ED, leading to better resources utilization.