

# ARCHIVES

OF

## FAMILY MEDICINE

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Peer-reviewed medical journals have long been established as the physician's number one source of new medical information. Journals are also the physician's most frequent and accessible form of continuing education. With so many medical publications available, no individual or group could hope to keep abreast of all the developments relevant to their practice. *Archives Journal Club* attempts to bridge two of the most familiar and well-accepted forms of continuing medical education: reading primary-source medical journals, and journal club review.

*Archives Journal Club* draws on the American Medical Association's vast network of editors, reviewers, and specialist physicians to identify the most important articles in the world literature relevant to the treatment of women patients—not only the weekly *JAMA* and the AMA's nine *Archives* specialty journals, but more than 50 other primary source journals from around the world. The *Journal Club* presents a "windows approach" to the medical literature by presenting structured summaries of the selected articles, with the complete text usually available via fax or first-class mail. A clinical conclusion by a specialist in the pertinent area of medicine appears with each structured summary, which attempts to address the more practical applications of the article.

By virtue of receiving this issue of *Archives Journal Club*, you participate in a "virtual journal club" with thousands of members. Shortly we will be offering the *Archives Journal Club* on the World Wide Web, opening new possibilities for discussion and interaction among authors, editors, and readers.

*Archives Journal Club* may be used in a variety of ways:

- As a quick review of the current medical literature on women's health;
- As a discussion guide for face-to-face journal club discussions with colleagues, if you already participate in a journal club;
- As a source for the complete text of the full-length article, most of which are available via fax or first-class mail through AMA Publishing's network of document delivery providers. The names, addresses, phone and fax numbers of these providers will appear in every issue of the *Journal Club*.

*Archives Journal Club* has selected women's health as its initial subject area for a variety of reasons. This is an area of growing interest and importance to researchers and healthcare professionals, with an expanding base of pertinent scientific material available. There is also the nature of the information itself, which crosses many specialty boundaries, making the subject difficult to track through any other single source. *Archives Journal Club/Women's Health* hopes to provide a convenient link for the many branches of medicine concerned with the healthcare of women patients.

For this inaugural issue, *Archives Journal Club/Women's Health* offers a very special feature: a Journal Club Roundtable discussion of the effects of estrogen replacement therapy and heart disease based on the recent Postmenopausal Estrogen/Progestin Interventions (PEPI) Trial (*JAMA*, 1995;273:199-208; see page 10 for structured summary). The distinguished panel shows the cross-specialty nature of the topic (and the *Journal Club*), bringing together experts from the specialties of family medicine, obstetrics & gynecology, and cardiology. We hope that this and future Roundtables will be of interest to our readers, and suggestions for topics are welcome.