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Enlarged second digit of the right foot with lateral deviation. See page 487.

ALCOHOL AND INJURY

DELAY OF DIAGNOSIS AND EMPIRIC TREATMENT OF ANGIOTENSIN-CONVERTING ENZYME INHIBITOR-INDUCED COUGH IN OFFICE PRACTICE

PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS 3 YEARS AFTER DIAGNOSIS TUBERCULOSIS IN THE HOMELESS

SURROGATES' PREDICTIONS OF SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS' RESUSCITATION PREFERENCES INTERRATER AGREEMENT IN THE INTERPRETATION OF MICROSCOPIC URINALYSIS

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keep learning new things about decision making at the end of life, often through the school of hard knocks. I recently had a wonderful patient with end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who died after a decision was reached not to reintubate yet again. However, in spite of several discussions of his wishes over several years and his intermittent episodes of lucidity near the end, he could never make the decision to sign a living will or an advance directive. He also did not want to put his wife in the position of having to make the decision, believing it would be emotionally too difficult for her. He would not choose among his three children. Instead, he wanted me, his doctor, to make the decision. In the end, his ongoing misery was clear, as was the unlikelihood of anything but small, temporary success. His children, with his wife in agreement, made the decision, with the support of myself and the intensive care unit attending physicians, that reintubation no longer met his standard criterion: "If I won't get off the respirator, don't put me on." In many ways, that simple statement was as clear as many sheets of paper of an advance directive.

Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA Editor

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