

peritonitis are required. Indeed, infections are a leading cause of death in patients with severe alcoholic hepatitis, both directly and indirectly by predisposing to multiorgan failure.<sup>4</sup>

Another factor to consider is the increased susceptibility to infection in these patients treated with corticosteroids. A study by Louvet et al<sup>2</sup> showed that nonresponse to corticosteroids is the main factor contributing to the development of infection during treatment with corticosteroids, suggesting that infection is likely a consequence of the absence of improvement in liver function. More recently, results of the Steroids or Pentoxifylline for Alcoholic Hepatitis trial (which evaluated the treatment effect of prednisolone and pentoxifylline in the management of severe alcoholic hepatitis) showed that despite the higher rates of infections in patients treated with prednisolone, the mortality rates attributed to infections were similar across the treatment groups, regardless of whether prednisolone was administered.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, it is important to emphasize that criteria to initiate empiric antibiotics in

patients with alcoholic hepatitis are currently lacking, and the decision to start antibiotics empirically in patients without a clear infection is largely based on the clinician's assessment.

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**CORRECTION**

## HPV DNA test

(APRIL 2015)

In the April 2015 issue, on page 214 in the article by Jin XW, McKenzie ML, Yen-Lieberman B, “Can the test for human papillomavirus DNA be used as a stand-alone, first-line screening test for cervical cancer?”, the source for the information on predictive values was not cited. The final bulleted item should have read as follows:

- HPV testing by itself performed better than Pap-HPV cotesting, with positive predictive values of 12.25% vs 11.04% and negative predictive values of 99.58% vs 99.52% (data presented to the FDA Medical Devices Advisory Committee, Microbiology Panel. March 12, 2014. FDA Executive Summary).

This oversight has been corrected in the online version of the article at [www.ccjm.org](http://www.ccjm.org).

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