### Category 10, Items 29 and 30

A 30-year-old otherwise healthy woman has the acute onset of severe low back pain, and loss of sensation and then motor function of both lower extremities. On physical examination, she is somewhat tachycardic at a regular rate of 100, although blood pressure is 95/70 on the right upper extremity and 105/70 on the left. She is anxious and has no pulses or Doppler signals in the femoral or distal vessels. She is insensate to pinprick from L-4 and deep tendon reflexes are also absent. Abdominal examination demonstrates no abnormal abdominal masses and bowel sounds are present.

   A chest film and an EKG are normal. Her WBC count is 14,400 with no shift. SMA-7 and SMA-12 are normal. Serum creatinine is 0.9. A Foley catheter yields 0.5 mL/kg/hour. The angiogram shown is obtained.
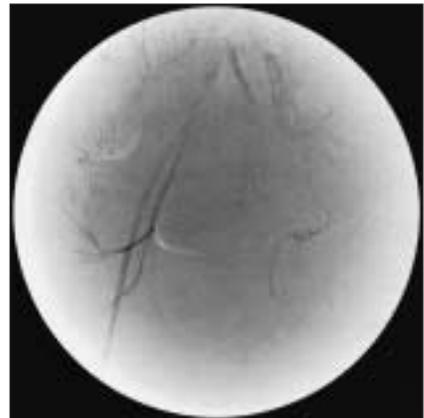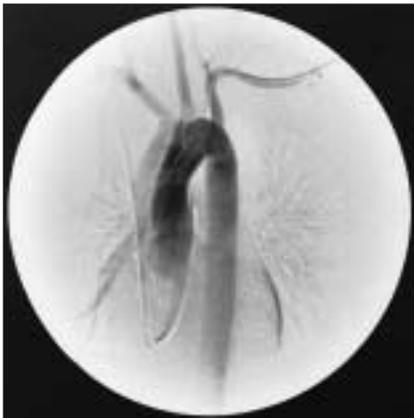
29. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

(A) Angiography is the most expedient and readily available method of confirming the diagnosis
(B) This condition is the most common lethal catastrophe involving the aorta
(C) Aortic rupture is the most common cause of death but occurs late in the course, and careful surveillance of aortic diameter is required for optimal timing of operation
(D) No specific therapy is required for patients with only chest or back pain as the initial event
(E) Because it is rare and causes of death are insidious (renal failure, bowel infarction), the diagnosis is difficult to establish and overall mortality is 40%

30. The first step for this particular patient's problem should be

(A) bilateral femoral thromboembolectomy of the iliac arteries
(B) left axillo-bifemoral bypass grafting
(C) aorto-bifemoral bypass graft with superior mesenteric artery reconstruction

(D) reconstruction of the ascending aorta

(E) placement of a right iliac artery stent and femoro-femoral bypass

Select the one lettered answer that is BEST for each item.

For the answers and a critique of items 29 and 30 see page 310.

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Calendar
Calendrier

"Clinical Updates 2002"

The Mayo Clinic Scottsdale is holding a course entitled "Clinical Updates 2002" from Sept 12 to 14, 2002, at the Aladdin Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. Credits: to be announced. The course will provide primary care, family practice physicians, specialists, surgeons and other allied health personnel with the latest information on diagnosis, therapy and selected topics in internal medicine and surgery. The course director is Dr. Russell I. Heigh. For further information contact Courtney J. Clement, Mayo School of CME, Mayo Clinic, 13400 East Shea Blvd., Scottsdale AZ 85259; tel 480 301-7552; fax 480 301-8323.

2002 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons will present its 88th Clinical Congress, from Oct. 6 to 10, 2002, at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco. The Congress will feature 30 postgraduate courses and more than 150 hours of general and specialty sessions. For further information contact the ACS at 633 N. Saint Clair St., Chicago IL 60611-3211; tel 312 202-5000; fax 312 202-5001; email postmaster@facs .org; Web site www.facs.org

Quebec Scoliosis Society

The Quebec Scoliosis Society, founded by members of the orthopedic division of Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal with the principal objective of sharing recent knowledge on a wide spectrum of spinal disorders, including scoliosis, low back pain, tumours and spinal imaging, will hold its 32nd annual meeting at the Manoire Rouville Campbell, Mont St-Hilaire, Que., on Oct. 25 and 26, 2002. Dr. Reinhard Zeller from the Hôpital St-Vincent-de-Paul in Paris will be the visiting professor. For further information contact Dr. Guy Grimard, Secretary, Quebec Scoliosis Society 2002, 3175 Côte Ste-Catherine, Rm. 7903, Montreal QC H3T 1C5; tel 514 3345-4876; fax 514 345-4755; Web site www.hsj .qc.ca/grdms/html/ssqenglish.htm

Advanced laparoscopic and gynecologic surgery

The Mayo Clinic Scottsdale is sponsoring a course entitled "15th Annual Techniques in Advanced Laparoscopic & Gynecologic Surgery" to be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 2002, at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort, Scottsdale, Ariz. Credits: AMA Category 1 and ACOG (to be decided). The course will provide an in-depth review of laparoscopic techniques, complications and instrumentation among other topics and procedures. Course highlights include interactive case presentations using an audience response system and a video festival, which will include a variety of laparoscopic procedures with an interactive discussion by each presenter. The course director is Dr. Javier F. Magrina. For further information contact Courtney J. Clement, Mayo School of CME, Mayo Clinic, 13400 East Shea Blvd., Scottsdale AZ 85259; tel 480 301-7552; fax 480 301-8323.

Upper extremity update

The 19th annual upper extremity update symposium will be held on Friday, Apr. 4, 2003, at Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Ave., Toronto, Ont. The symposium is directed to practising orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, physical therapists, occupational therapists and nurses with an interest in musculoskeletal disorders and trainees in these fields. Credit: Maintenance of Certification Program, RCPSC, and Category 1, AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Contact: Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 500 University Ave., Ste. 650, Toronto ON M5G 1V7; tel. 416 978-2719/1 888 512-8173; fax 416 971-2200; email ce.med @utoronto.ca; Web site www.cme .utoronto.ca■