

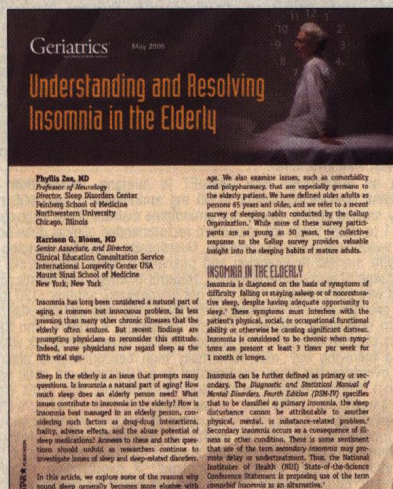
► COVER ARTICLE



30 To PEG or not to PEG

Cover illustration by Alexandra Baker

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Understanding and resolving insomnia in the elderly

Is sleep a natural part of aging? Recent findings are prompting many to reconsider their long-held beliefs. Indeed, some physicians now consider sleep as the fifth vital sign. Log on to learn more about insomnia in this supplement.

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Psychiatric Consultant

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Mental disorders of old age, part I

Harold D. Palmer, MD

Certain psychological changes of considerable magnitude occur naturally in the aging process. When these changes go beyond a relatively normal limit and enter the realm of confusion, delirium, and psychotic reactions, a search should be made to discover the causative or significantly contributory factors.

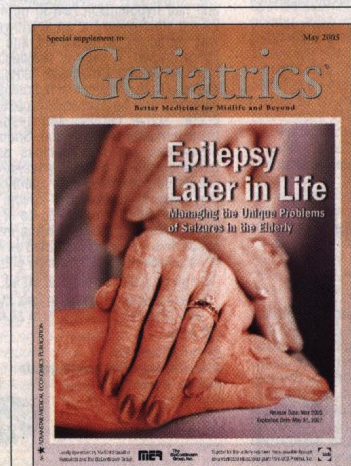
Ethical Considerations

30 To PEG or not to PEG

A review of evidence for placing feeding tubes in advanced dementia and the decision-making process

Frank A. Cervo, MD, CMD • Leslie Bryan, MD • Sharon Farber, MD, MPH

Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) has evolved into a common low-risk procedure in current medical practice. Clinical evidence supporting the use of tube feedings in patients with advanced dementia is clearly lacking, yet PEG procedures continue to be performed in a large number of these cases. The decision-making process is complicated, however, and involves the clinician considering such issues as advance directives, ethical considerations, legal/financial concerns, and emotional factors.

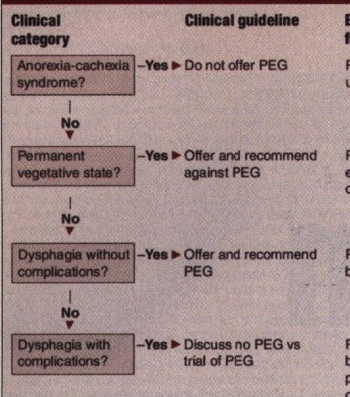


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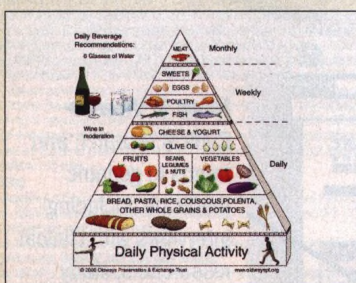
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- Epilepsy in Later Life (at left)
- Prevention of NSAID-induced ulcers in the elderly
- Chronic pain management in the elderly.

Figure Decision-making algorithm for PEG tube placement



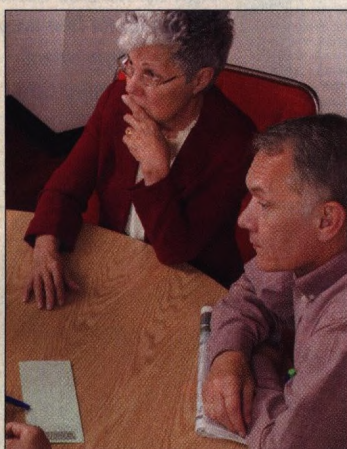
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Feeding tubes are not the answer in advanced dementia

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- ▶ Amount of sleep affects risk of diabetes, hypertension
- ▶ Effects of estrogen on breast cancer
- ▶ Shock wave lithotripsy linked to DM, HTN
- ▶ Faster delirium resolution means better functional recovery
- ▶ Vardenafil effective in men taking antihypertensive medication
- ▶ Arthritis care gets failing grade

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American Gastroenterological Association Medical Position Statement: Evaluation of dyspepsia

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Norman Levine, MD

Enlarging blister on foot with no history of trauma

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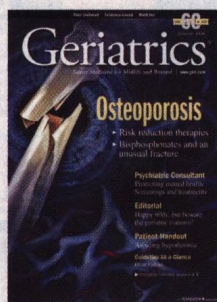
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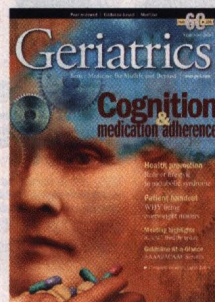
Don Self

How to get reimbursed for post-op procedures

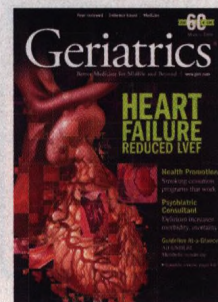
Hot topics from recent issues



January 06



February 06



March 06

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