



NEW SERIES

POEMs: Keeping up with clinical research that can change your practice

BEGINNING WITH THIS ISSUE, the *Journal* will include brief summaries of important new clinical research that can change your practice. These synopses, called *Patient Oriented Evidence that Matters*, or POEMs, are written by editors and physicians at an independent company called InfoPOEM. By partnering with InfoPOEM we will be quickly bringing you updates on the latest key studies on the diagnosis and treatment of disease, published in other journals you may not have time to read.

Here's how InfoPOEM comes up with each item:

- Its staff physicians screen approximately 100 peer-reviewed medical journals for articles useful and relevant to daily practice
- A medical editor carefully reads the original article and writes a draft of the POEM
- The other medical editors and physicians on their editorial board then review and critique this draft and suggest revisions.

Many of the InfoPOEM writers have a special interest in using the tools of evidence-based medicine in clinical practice. A list of InfoPOEM's editorial board members and a description of methods they use in classifying each piece of research can be found at www.infopoems.com.

You may have seen some POEMs already. Other journals, including the *British Medical Journal*, regularly publish them. As a result, you may occasionally see the same POEM in

CCJM that also appears in another journal.

Although each POEM is carefully reviewed, reading the summary should not take the place of critically reviewing the original research paper yourself before changing the way you practice.

We plan on selecting a few POEMs to publish in the *Journal* every month, and we hope you find them useful. The selection will be made by members of our editorial staff. Many additional POEMs are available to you—as daily e-mails and as part of a downloadable database—via paid subscription at the InfoPOEM home page.

We have no financial arrangements with InfoPOEM other than a trade: we get to publish several POEMs a month in return for running an advertisement for the InfoPOEM subscription service.

We will continue to publish our more detailed reviews of key clinical trials prepared by experts in the field, although some important studies may first appear as POEMs.

Please let us know whether you find this new series useful by writing, faxing, e-mailing, or calling us.

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Deputy Editor