Portal Hypertension

Preface

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Portal hypertension is a universal consequence of cirrhosis and some noncirrhotic chronic liver diseases. Once portal hypertension develops, a cascade of events follow, leading to complications commonly associated with chronic liver disease. This issue reviews recent advances that have led to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of portal hypertension, its complications, and their management.

Dr Iwakiri provides an overview of the latest research on the mechanisms leading to portal hypertension and discusses current and future therapies. The diagnosis of portal hypertension is not always easy to establish and Dr De Franchis and associates review new tests and procedures that promise to simplify the process of confirming portal hypertension. While not common in Western clinical practice, noncirrhotic portal hypertension can be a vexing clinical problem; this subject is reviewed by Dr Sarin, who presents a comprehensive overview of noncirrhotic portal hypertension, its diagnosis, and its management.

The remainder of the issue focuses on the evaluation and current pharmacologic, endoscopic, and radiologic management of the complications of portal hypertension, including gastrointestinal bleeding, hepatic hydrothorax, hepatopulmonary syndrome, and portopulmonary hypertension, among others, providing a comprehensive guide for practitioners who take care of these challenging patients.

The issue ends with an extensive review of the perioperative risk assessment of patients with cirrhosis, a common scenario in clinical practice. Drs Im, Schiano, and colleagues present the current state-of-the-art on this topic and provide practical guidelines on how to best complete this challenging task.
We hope that you will find this issue informative and a useful reference tool as you face the ever-increasing challenge of caring for patients with advanced liver disease.

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