mL). sE-selectin levels were also elevated in heatstroke (51±5 ng/mL, p=0.09) and heatstress (50±4 ng/mL, p=0.02) compared to normal control subjects (34±4 ng/mL). After cooling, sL-selectin and sE-selectin levels continued to be elevated at 886±72 and 69±13 ng/mL, respectively. sL-selectin levels correlated with sE-selectin levels (r= 0.68, p=0.0002) and the Glasgow coma score (r=-0.45, p=0.03).

These data support the views that (1) heatstroke is associated with activation of leukocytes and endothelial cell adhesion and belongs to the systemic inflammatory response syndromes; (2) heatstress and heatstroke may represent a continuum rather than separate entities; and (3) novel interventions, in addition to cooling, may be needed in the treatment of heatstroke.

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Effective Implementation of Practice Guidelines

To the Editor:

I read with interest and agree with Dr. Woolf's conclusion (March 1998 Supplement) that effective implementation is necessary if practice guidelines are to improve outcomes of patient care. I have had the opportunity to serve as a part-time consultant for a guideline vendor, the Institute for Healthcare Quality (IHQ), who Dr. Woolf suggests promulgates protocols that are not based upon published clinical practice guidelines and well-designed outcome studies.

Based upon my personal experience, I disagree with Dr. Woolf's comments about IHQ. This organization has developed a rigorous approach to assure their protocols are based on published investigations and clinical practice guidelines. Using outside consultant panels composed of subspecialty expert academic physicians and respected clinical practitioners in general and emergency medicine, IHQ additionally assures their management protocols are applicable to clinical practice. In addition, evidence-based narrative reviews accompany and amplify management algorithms.

Commercial vendors have developed protocols to implement practice guidelines, and it is possible that some of these products are not state-of-the-art as suggested by Dr. Woolf. However, other vendors have successfully incorporated current state-of-the-art features into their management protocols.

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