In this August 2006 Issue of Clinics we highlight the novel contribution of Araújo et al, who evaluated the effects of the conjugated equine estrogens and of tamoxifen on the function and morphology of the thyroid gland of ovariectomized rats. Compared to untreated ovariectomized controls, estrogens and tamoxifen induced greater thyroid follicular cell height comparable to that observed in normal rats. T3 and T4 levels were low in the untreated ovariectomized rats, compared to normal rats and to the 2 treated groups. These data indicate that estrogen and tamoxifen administration induce proliferation of the thyroid, an observation which has not been previously described.

Modolin et al present results of the treatment of 17 patients for lymphedema of the penis and scrotum by removing affected tissues and correcting the penoscrotal region, through a modification of the surgical method of Charles. Regression of symptoms and clinical improvement was verified in the follow up which ranged from 6 months to 6 years. The procedure is easily reproducible and allows for improvements in local hygiene and in ambulation, voiding in a standing position, and permits the resumption of sexual intercourse. The cosmetic results are good, and the quality of life is remarkably improved.

Lucareli et al describe alterations of the load-response mechanism of the knee joint during hemiparetic gait following stroke in 66 patients studied by 3-dimensional kinematic analysis. The clinically relevant characteristics found were an increase in knee joint flexion during the initial contact, and movement amplitude below that anticipated in this phase of the walking cycle. These were the most important alteration of the load-response mechanism in all the studied patients and should be taken into account when choosing the best treatment strategy.

Almeida et al compare the effects of the COX-2 inhibitor parecoxib and a normal saline placebo on a rat model of taurocholate induced acute pancreatitis. IL-6 and IL-10 were lower in the parecoxib-treated group, but amylase levels and mortality were similar. Histological morphology also was unaltered, except for fat necrosis, which was worse in parecoxib-treated rats. They conclude that parecoxib has a poor effect on this model of taurocholate induced pancreatic injury.

Camargo et al determined the prevalence of chronic autoimmune thyroiditis in 409 residents in an urban area neighboring a petrochemical complex, by comparing them to 420 patients in an adequately paired urban control area. A high prevalence of chronic autoimmune thyroiditis was detected in both areas, which may be attributed to a high iodine intake over the 7 preceding years. There was no apparent relationship of chronic autoimmune thyroiditis prevalence to the proximity to the petrochemical complex.

Narazaki et al retrospectively describe the prognostic factors in 112 patients treated for pathologic fractures secondary to metastatic tumors. This case series exhibited a pattern similar to recently described international ones.
In the August 2006 issue of Clinics
Rocha-e-Silva M

(most frequent primary tumor: breast tumor, followed by
tumors of undetermined origin, prostate, and lung tumors).
The only clear prognostic factor referred to the orthopedic
procedure: patients undergoing osteosynthesis, a less mor-
bid surgical technique with earlier rehabilitation, had longer
survival times than patients who received endoprostheses.

Valente et al report an interesting and simple tool for
diagnostic differentiation between the two relatively un-
common Chédiak-Higashi and Griscelli-Prunieras syn-
dromes. Light microscopic examination of hair shafts of
patients reveals subtle differences that are useful in identi-
fying both the disorders, but not in distinguishing between
them. However, polarized light microscopy of hair shafts,
an approach that has not been previously described, aids
in differentiating between these syndromes. The hitherto
undescribed differences observed under these conditions are
offered as a helpful complementary diagnostic method for
differential diagnosis, especially in situations where the
more sophisticated molecular studies are not available.

Fernandes et al report a prospective, randomized
multicenter study with closed, multi-fragmented tibial dia-
physeal fractures treated using one of two fixation meth-
ods both performed during minimally invasive surgery:
nonreamed interlocking intramedullary nails (23 patients)
or bridging plates (22 patients). The healing time was
shorter with the bridging plate technique, although no sig-
nificant functional differences were found.

Nishinari et al report the results of arterial reconstruc-
tions associated with the resection of malignant tumors in
36 patients undergoing elective operations between 1997
and 2004. They were classified according to tumor loca-
tion: cervical (14), lower limbs (13), and abdomen (9). Ar-
terial reconstruction was accomplished in all patients, 5 ar-
terial complications were recorded: 2 early- and 3 late-
stage. There was no difference between the primary arte-
rial patency rates between the 3 groups of tumor location.
All the deaths (22) recorded over this period resulted from
progression of the respective neoplastic disease.

We also publish a review on volume management in
critically ill patients and 5 case reports.

NO FASCÍCULO DE JUNHO 2006 DE CLINICS

Neste número de agosto de 2006 de Clinics, destaca-se
a contribuição original de Araújo et al, que avaliaram os
efeitos de estrógenos eqüinos conjugados e de tamoxifen so-
bre a função e morfologia da tireóide em ratas ovariecto-
mizadas. Comparadas com controles ovariecomizadas, ob-
servou-se que o estrógeno e o tamoxifen induzem maior al-
tura de células foliculares, comparáveis aos níveis observa-
dos em ratas normais. Os níveis medidos de T3 e T4 em ratas
ovariecomizadas não tratadas foram baixos, em compara-
çãocom ratas normais e com as ratas dos grupos tratados
com estrógeno e tamoxifen. Estes dados indicam que os
estrógenos e o tamoxifen induzem proliferação celular na
tireóide, uma observação nunca antes relatada.

Modolin et al apresentam os resultados do tratamento