

Avalanche fatalities

Of the 204 deaths among avalanche victims recorded between 1984 and 2005 in Canada, three-quarters were due to asphyxia and one-quarter to trauma. Boyd and colleagues note that this pattern differs from that in Europe, where trauma is responsible for only about 5% of avalanche deaths. **See Research, page 507**



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In a related commentary, Brugger recommends changes to the on-site care of avalanche victims to give management of trauma greater prominence. **See Commentary, page 491**

Drug-facilitated sexual assault

Of the victims of sexual assault in a study based in Ontario, about one-fifth were victims of drug-facilitated sexual assault. Du Mont and colleagues found that victims of drug-facilitated sexual assault were more likely than other victims to have presented to a large urban centre, to be employed, and to have consumed over-the-counter medications, street drugs or alcohol before the suspected assault. **See Research, page 513**

In a related commentary, Butler and Welch say that prevention efforts should include education for both men and women. **See Commentary, page 493**

Diastolic heart failure

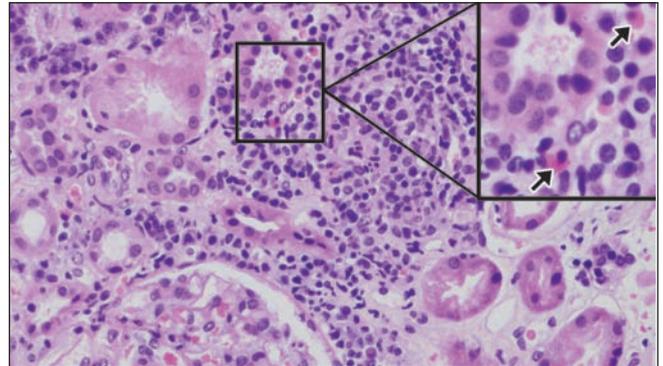
Diastolic heart failure is not consistently defined, and little evidence exists of effective treatments for this condition, according to a review of existing research by Tzanetos and colleagues. Clinicians should focus on treating comorbidities such as hypertension, atrial fibrillation and coronary artery disease, they say. **See Review, page 520**

Return on investment in health research

Frank and Nason discuss 2 approaches to measure return on investment in health research. The “payback model,” which was recently adopted and modified by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, is favoured and may help optimize future evaluations. **See Analysis, page 528**

Allergic interstitial nephritis

A 57-year-old man presented to hospital with a 2-week history of progressive malaise, myalgia, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, polyuria and polydipsia. Acute interstitial nephritis was diagnosed. The most frequent cause of this condition is an adverse drug reaction; in this patient, the condition was likely caused by pantoprazole. **See Practice, page 535**



Koplik spots in early measles

Measles has become an uncommon cause of rash and fever since the introduction of widespread vaccination. The presence of typical Koplik spots helped make the diagnosis in this patient. **See Clinical images, page 583**

Health and the budget

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's 2009/10 fiscal blueprint offers nothing for health infrastructure or health human resources. **See News, page 497**



Reuters/Blair Gable

Earn extra money

The ethics of physicians earning extra monies for persuading patients to participate in clinical trials. **See News, page 500**