the analysis were age and sex adjusted. Formal testing does not reveal any evidence of a plateau in the detection of high-risk coronary disease, within the range of data points studied. We would strongly encourage other investigators in countries with higher cardiac catheterization rates to conduct similar work in search of a plateau at these higher rates. This may be difficult to do in many areas of the United States. Given the hybrid American health care system, there is a potential lack of population-based data such as those used in Alberta.

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Controlled-release opioids and alcohol

Interpretation of the article by Sally Murray and Eric Wooltorton on alcohol-associated rapid release of a long-acting opioid will be facilitated by the following information: 1. The opioid formulation in question (Palladone XL, once-daily hydromorphone) is not available in Canada. 2. Information on the composition of the capsule shell is not relevant to the effect of alcohol, since control of release of hydromorphone from Palladone XL does not depend on the capsule shell itself. 3. The controlled-release technology employed in Palladone XL is not the same as that of the other controlled-release opioid formulations distributed by Purdue Pharma in Canada. In response to the request from Health Canada, noted in the article, Purdue Pharma recently submitted information for their review, indicating that an effect of alcohol of the type seen with Palladone XL does not occur with MS Contin, Codeine Conti, Hydromorph Contin or OxyContin. 4. Because of the potential for interaction between the pharmacologic effects of alcohol and any CNS depressant drug, such as opioid analgesics, co-ingestion of alcohol and such drugs is never advisable.

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Ethics and investment funds

It was with great interest that we read the CMA news piece on MD Management Ltd. and ethical investments. We met with an MD Management advisor regarding this very issue just a few months ago and were surprised by the lack of any consideration of the arms trade by MD Management.

In the article, Robert Hewett, MD Management’s president and chief executive officer, explains that “each investor may have a personal definition of what they consider ethical,” and yet his company has taken a stance on the tobacco industry. We would like MD Management to offer investment packages that exclude investments in the arms industry. Smoking guns and smoking cigarettes both have devastating effects on health.

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Measuring frailty in geriatric patients

The new tool to measure frailty in the elderly recently promoted by Kenneth Rockwood and colleagues is one of many produced in what appears to be a never-ending search for a Holy Grail: a precise and useful measure of frailty in the geriatric population.

The care of geriatric patients is difficult and complex. It involves managing...