

# CARLE | SELECTED PAPERS

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- Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy: An Insight into a Rare Disease
- The Veteran Health Administration's Response to Meeting the Unique Needs of the Returning Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran
- Evaluation of the Thyroid Nodule

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- Glycemic Control and Clinical Outcomes for Patients Admitted to Noncritical Hospital Units
- Psychotherapeutic Interventions in Breast Cancer and Chronic Illness

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- Urinary Schistosomiasis: Case Report and Review

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A JOURNAL  
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# SPRING/SUMMER 2009

# from the executive editor

Welcome to the spring/summer 2009 edition of *Carle Selected Papers*.

Please pay particular attention to the article from our regional Veterans' Administration Hospital, describing in detail the services available for veterans with their multiple problems. The *Wall Street Journal* on July 28, 2008 reported that more than 22,000 veterans sought help during the past year from a special suicide hotline. Currently they receive more than 250 calls per day—double the number of calls than when the line opened a year ago. In addition about one in five of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, placing them at higher risk for suicide. We must all be aware of these staggering statistics and how and where to get help for these troubled warriors.

Dr. Suzanne Harris' paper on psychotherapeutic interventions focuses on breast cancer patients but is equally applicable to those with other chronic illnesses. The techniques described therein have been proven to enhance quality of life when a patient survives these serious physical health problems. This help should be offered earlier in case management rather than later. Genitourinary schistosomiasis may seem exotic in a general medical journal, but it is less so when one considers the increasing immigration from around the world to central Illinois.

There is also good information on cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure, diabetes mellitus management, thyroid nodules, and laparoscopic repair of traumatic intraperitoneal urinary bladder rupture. Read all the articles and be sure to take advantage of the free CME credit available by studying with us.

Robert Zeiders, MD  
Executive Editor

# letter to the editor

Dear Doctors:

I read with interest the latest *Carle Selected Papers*, Volume 51 (Spring/Summer 2008). Specifically, I enjoyed your very useful article titled “Assessing the Acuity of the Elderly Driver: A Guide for the Practitioner.” However, I wanted to point out a few inaccuracies with regard to current Illinois law and minimum vision thresholds.

First, vision tests are not required each year for drivers age 75 and over. In general, a vision test is required for the initial license, at age 21, and every 4 years through age 80. However, in the event the driver has no moving violations against his/her license, the IL Secretary of State’s “Safe Driver Renewal Program” allows for one 4-year renewal by mail or electronic means for drivers from age 21–75. Therefore, the maximum possible renewal frequency for drivers age 21–75 is 8 years, while for ages 76–80, the maximum is 4 years. From age 81–86, a vision test is required every 2 years. For age 87 and over, a vision test is required every year. Next, the horizontal field of vision must be at least 140 degrees, not 120. Last, while a funduscopy and a Useful Field of View test have clinical value, they have no bearing on the vision thresholds required for drivers license renewal.

As an aside, a “Vision Specialist Report” may be submitted to report the virtual acuity and visual field of the driver/patient. These reports may be used only by a physician who performs a complete eye exam, including glaucoma testing and refraction (in other words, an optometrist or ophthalmologist).

There are other nuances of Illinois law and JCAR rules that may impact renewal for certain individuals. Such situations may include early renewal, progressive defects, telescopic aids, and partial restrictions for daylight-only driving or outside mirrors.

By the way, the preface provided by Dr. Zeiders also makes a valuable point. Medical practitioners, including ophthalmologists and optometrists, are not mandated to report drivers who fail to meet minimum vision thresholds in Illinois. However, the questions of ethics and the doctor’s conscience remain.

I again want to thank you for including this important issue in your paper, and want to offer any assistance you may need in the future regarding this, or any other eye health or vision-related issue that may arise.

All best regards,

Mark D. Esarey, OD

*Editor’s note: Carle Selected Papers greatly appreciates the corrections and added information submitted by Dr. Esarey on this subject, and always welcomes the participation of its readers.*

**Carle Selected Papers CME Activity**  
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This CME activity in *Carle Selected Papers* allows subscribers to earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. There is no charge for this CME activity.

The quiz questions are based on selected articles in this issue. Answers appear in this issue.

This course has been planned and presented in accordance with the ACCME Essential Areas and policies for Continuing Medical Education for physicians. Carle Foundation Hospital is accredited by the Illinois State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Carle Foundation Hospital designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Objective:** After reading a specific article(s) published in *Carle Selected Papers*, participants should be able to evaluate the appropriateness of the clinical information as it applies to the provision of patient care.

**Audience:** This activity is designed for physicians who are involved in providing or administering patient care and who wish to advance their current knowledge of clinical medicine.

**Disclosure:** The following CME authors and committee members, Gupta, Farokhi, Lansford, Price, Harris, Jakoby, Kumar, Maurer, Gaudier, Biggs, Huffman, Zeiders and Zaman, have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

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*Answers to this issue's quiz are on page 54. This quiz has 19 questions.*

