



Preface

Contemporary thrombosis debates



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Guest Editor

Improved appreciation of the morbidity and mortality associated with venous thromboembolic diseases, combined with the discovery and characterization of an array of prevalent hypercoagulable states, novel parenteral and oral antithrombotic medications, and improved objective diagnostic tests, have revolutionized the field of coagulation medicine. These advances have inspired and impacted the clinical and research realms of the hematologist, vascular medicine specialist, cardiologist, general internist, vascular surgeon, pathologist, obstetrician, and pharmacist. With an expanded armamentarium of laboratory tests, drugs, and imaging modalities have come decision-making complexity, cost-effectiveness worries, and stark differences of medical opinion. As enthusiasm mounts, agreement wanes and debate ensues. Consensus will likely remain elusive.

This issue of the *Medical Clinics of North America* presents nine contemporary thrombosis debates. These debates are based on the Great Lakes Great Thrombosis Debates held in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 13, 2002. Experts and experienced clinicians from states bordering a Great Lake convened to present opposing views. In several cases, the invited speaker was specifically asked to present the perspective that differs from their true personal view. For this reason, the protagonist and antagonist for each debate are not specifically identified. The only “winners” following these presentations were the meeting attendees, and now the interested readers of

this collection. I hope this issue stimulates more debate, discussion, and devotion to our craft.

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