



Causes of Dizziness in the Elderly

Ann Fam Med 2010;8:iii. doi:10.1370/afm.1122.

The *Annals of Family Medicine* encourages readers to develop a learning community of those seeking to improve health care and health through enhanced primary care. You can participate by conducting a RADICAL journal club and sharing the results of your discussions in the *Annals* online discussion for the featured articles. RADICAL is an acronym for Read, Ask, Discuss, Inquire, Collaborate, Act, and Learn. The word *radical* also indicates the need to engage diverse participants in thinking critically about important issues affecting primary care and then acting on those discussions.¹

HOW IT WORKS

In each issue, the *Annals* selects an article or articles and provides discussion tips and questions. We encourage you to take a RADICAL approach to these materials and to post a summary of your conversation in our online discussion. (Open the article online and click on "TRACK Comments: Submit a response.") You can find discussion questions and more information online at: <http://www.AnnFamMed.org/AJC/>.



CURRENT SELECTION

Article for Discussion

Maarsingh OR, Dros J, Schellevis FG, et al. Causes of persistent dizziness in elderly patients in primary care. *Ann Fam Med*. 2010;8(3):196-205.

Discussion Tips

This article provides an opportunity to consider the causes of a common symptom among elderly patients seen in primary care.

Discussion Questions

- What question(s) are addressed by this article?
- Why is this study needed beyond previous research on this topic?
- How strong is the study design for answering the question?
- To what degree can the findings be accounted for by:
 1. How physicians and their patients were selected or excluded?
 2. How the main variables were measured?
 3. Confounding (false attribution of causality because 2 variables discovered to be associated actually are associated with a third factor)?
 4. Chance?
- How strong are the methods for linking participating patients' dizziness and the cause to which it was attributed?
- How much does the Delphi procedure used to develop the evaluation protocol enhance your judgment of the appropriateness and completeness of the protocol?
- What are the main study findings?
- How does the sensitivity analysis aid your interpretation of the findings?
- How comparable is the study sample to your practice? What is your judgment about the transportability of the findings?
- How might this study change your practice?
- What important researchable questions remain?

References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: It's time to get RADICAL.* *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <http://annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>.