

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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TOBACCO CONTROL is a new quarterly scientific journal being launched in March 1992 by the BMJ to consider all aspects of tobacco prevention and control.

THE JOURNAL AIMS TO STUDY:

- **The nature and extent of tobacco use worldwide**
- **The effects of tobacco use on health, the economy, the environment and society**
- **The efforts of the health community and health advocates to prevent and control tobacco use**
- **The activities of the tobacco industry and its allies to promote tobacco use**

The editorial team includes regional editors from throughout the world, associate editors with expertise in special areas (epidemiology, addiction, economics, passive smoking, smokeless tobacco, legislation), and an editorial advisory board of leading tobacco researchers and tobacco control advocates.

RESEARCH AREAS

- Evaluation of smoking prevention and cessation programmes
- Tracking and evaluation of tobacco control policies and legislation
- Epidemiologic and behavioural research on tobacco use
- Health effects of smoking, smoking cessation, passive smoking and smokeless tobacco use

SUBMISSION

Papers should be sent to:

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Health and the future

AUDIT IN ACTION

From a minority interest to an integral part of good medical practice, audit has come a long way. *Audit in Action* traces this development in a selection of articles originally published in the *BMJ*. Topics range from practical aspects of starting to audit to the wider aspects of achieving quality based on experience in the United States and Europe. The contributors are leaders in or experienced practitioners of audit. Covering audit both in hospitals and in general practice, *Audit in Action* is valuable reading for all those concerned to improve the quality of health care.

March 1992

UK £10.95; Abroad £13.00 (BMA members £9.95 or £12.00)

THE HEALTH DEBATE LIVE: 45 interviews for *Leading for Health*

When it set out to produce its manifesto for the National Health Service, the BMA sought a wide variety of perspectives. Representatives from hospitals, general practice, the BMA's craft committees, the royal colleges, parliament, regional health authorities, community and public health, education, health research, health economics, and management were interviewed on various issues integral to the health service. The resulting BMA document, *Leading for Health: a BMA Agenda for Health*, encompasses the often contrasting views and presents questions that need answering—a challenge for the association in the coming years. But what did people actually say in their interviews? The “off the top” thoughts of those interviewed can be more telling than formulated responses and carefully worked out positions on health issues, so the *BMJ* asked interviewees for permission to publish transcripts of their original comments. Most of them agreed, and this collection provides a lively and provocative contribution to the debate on the health service.

March 1992

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THE FUTURE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

General practitioners have recently had to cope with dramatic changes in their working conditions imposed on them by government policy. Like it or not, the pressure of constant change is going on, and general practitioners have to decide whether to influence its direction or simply to be overtaken by it. *The Future of General Practice* discusses what general practice should be and how it should be funded. Authors, who include general practitioners and health policy analysts, discuss topics at the heart of this debate, including research, audit, list sizes, fundholding, and general practitioners' educational needs.

March 1992

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THE HEALTH OF THE NATION: THE BMJ VIEW

Edited by Richard Smith, Editor, *BMJ*

“... a strategy imposed by the government which takes no heed of the views of those who will have to implement it ... is valueless”.

So writes William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Health, in his introduction to *The Health of the Nation*, the government's consultative document that sets out a strategy for improving the health of the English. Taking Mr Waldegrave at his word on wanting to listen to everybody, the *BMJ* commissioned a series of articles that explain the views of some of those most concerned. Contributors discuss each of the 16 key areas defined in the strategy and suggest other subjects that might qualify as key areas. Furthermore, the articles will be useful beyond the borders of England because most developed countries are now setting strategies to improve health.

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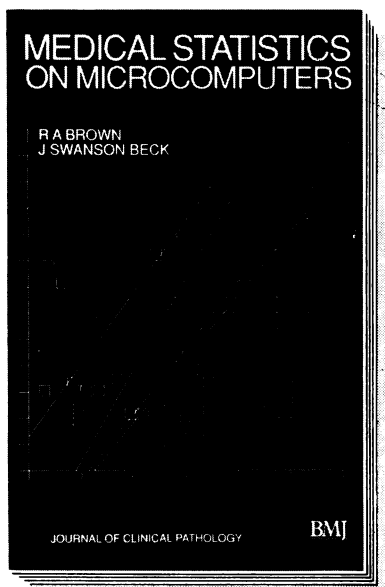
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How is no longer a problem — but there's still which and why

The microcomputer revolution has made powerful machines and highly complex programs generally available. This means that users of statistical techniques need no longer be concerned with the arithmetical and algebraic details — the software will take care of all that. What is vital, however, is to understand the ideas and the basic principles of statistical analysis. In *Medical Statistics on Microcomputers* R A Brown and J Swanson Beck show how to get the best use out of microcomputers when analysing data, particularly in the pathology laboratory. They explain the rational basis of various widely applicable statistical methods and also indicate their limitations so that you can make an informed choice. Chapters include:

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- Analysis of data from one or two groups
- Comparison of several groups
- Analysis of categorical data
- Statistical methods for diagnostic tests.

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Let the BMJ guide you through statistics:

STATISTICS WITH CONFIDENCE — Confidence intervals and statistical guidelines. Martin J Gardner, Douglas G Altman.

Many medical journals, including the *British Medical Journal*, now expect scientific papers submitted to them to contain confidence intervals when appropriate. Why? what are they? and how do you calculate them? *Statistics With Confidence* tells you. A clear explanation of the reasons for using confidence intervals is followed by detailed presentation of methods of calculation, including numerous worked examples and specially compiled tables. To make things even easier, a computer programme, Confidence Interval Analysis (CIA), for calculating confidence intervals, has been specially designed by Martin Gardner and details are available from the Publishing Department, *British Medical Journal* (or the American College of Physicians).

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STATISTICS AT SQUARE ONE — T D V Swinscow

The statistical testing of data is indispensable in many types of medical investigation and a help on countless occasions in clinical practice. This book provides step by step instruction. Subjects covered include standard deviation, X^2 tests, t tests, non-parametric tests, and correlation. The book includes sections on Fisher's exact probability test and rank correlation. Methods specially adapted to pocket calculators.

UK £3.95; Abroad £5.00; US\$13.00 BMA members £3.45 or £4.50 ACP members US\$11.00

STATISTICS IN PRACTICE — Sheila M Gore, Douglas G Altman

No doctor can afford to ignore statistics: most modern medical research uses statistics. This important and authoritative book provides clear information on designing studies, applying statistical techniques, and interpreting studies that use statistics. It can be easily understood by those with no statistical training and should be read by all those who want to keep abreast of new developments.

UK £8.95; Abroad £11.00; US\$23.00 BMA members £7.95 or £10.00 ACP members US\$19.00

EPIDEMIOLOGY FOR THE UNINITIATED — Geoffrey Rose, D J P Barker

Epidemiology has its own techniques of data collection and interpretation and its necessary jargon of technical terms, and in *Epidemiology For The Uninitiated* the authors guide the novice expertly through the theory and practical pitfalls. The second edition of this popular *BMJ* handbook has been revised to include further details of epidemiological methods and some of their more dramatic applications, such as the investigations on the Spanish cooking oil epidemic, and AIDS.

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