

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 1981

LEADING ARTICLES

Withholding treatment in infancy	925	Insulinomas	927
Epiphysitis in congenital dislocation of the hip	926	Disability in the developing world	928

CLINICAL RESEARCH • PAPERS AND SHORT REPORTS • PRACTICE OBSERVED

Pindolol acts as beta-adrenoceptor agonist in orthostatic hypotension: therapeutic implications A J MAN IN 'T VELD, M A D H SCHALEKAMP	929
Calcium antagonists in exercise-induced asthma K R PATEL	932
Cyclosporin A in cadaveric organ transplantation R Y CALNE, D J G WHITE, D B EVANS, S THIRU, R G HENDERSON, D V HAMILTON, K ROLLES, P MCMASTER, T J DUFFY, B R D MACDOUGALL, R WILLIAMS	934
Relapse rate and long-term management of plaque psoriasis after treatment with photochemotherapy and dithranol D VELLA BRIFFA, M W GREAVES, A P WARIN, S ROGERS, J MARKS, S SHUSTER	937
Algorithmic method for assessing urinary incontinence in elderly women P HILTON, S L STANTON	940
Renal imaging: a comparison of radionuclide, ultrasound, and computed tomographic scanning in investigation of renal space-occupying lesions P H O'REILLY, D E OSBORN, H J TESTA, D L ASBURY, J J K BEST, R J BARNARD	943
Meningitis and septicaemia due to haemophilus influenzae type b in pregnancy T SANDBERG, T DAHLBERG	946
Effect of dobutamine on insulin requirement in diabetic ketoacidosis S M WOOD, J R MILNE, S F EVANS, P ROGERS	946
Iliopsoas bursitis in rheumatoid arthritis: an unusual cause of leg oedema M J FORD, A G MARTYNOGA, G NUKI	947
Scleroderma in the elderly P L WILLIAMS, J M GUMPEL	948
Combined phlebography and arthrography in patients with painful swollen calf J J F BELCH, N C MCMILLAN, I FOGELMAN, H CAPELL, C D FORBES	949
Urinary tract infection due to laboratory-acquired Escherichia coli: relation to virulence S H PARRY, S N ABRAHAM, I M FEAVERS, MAUREEN LEE, M R JONES, A J BINT, M SUSSMAN	949
Crohn's disease in Turner's syndrome JANICE A KOHLER, D B GRANT	950
Acute nephrotic syndrome with reversible renal failure after phenylbutazone MICHAEL GREENSTONE, BARRY HARTLEY, ROGER GABRIEL, G BEVAN	950
Intravenous amiodarone in ventricular fibrillation J R CHAPMAN, M J BOYD	951
Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia provoked by swallowing R S BEXTON, A W NATHAN, K J HELLESTRAND, A J CAMM	952
Medical Records—II: A4 folders—a step into the present J J C CORMACK	953
Sex Problems in Practice: Diagnosing sex problems in general practice CYRIL GILL	955
Beyond the Surgery: General practitioner to the actors MICHAEL COIGLEY	957
Pitfalls in Practice: Employment law—III NORMAN ELLIS	958

MEDICAL PRACTICE

For Debate: Psychiatric research in medical perspective MICHAEL SHEPHERD	961
Medical History: A link with the past D MCCrackEN	964
ABC of ENT: Nose bleeds HAROLD LUDMAN	967
Pollution and People: Perspectives and priorities DAPHNE GLOAG	970
Dealing with the Disadvantaged: Amputees NORMAN CROUCHER	972
Lesson of the Week: Enteral feeds contaminated with Enterobacter cloacae as a cause of septicaemia M W CASEWELL, J E COOPER, M WEBSTER ..	973
Clinical pharmacology: Adverse reactions to drugs MICHAEL D RAWLINS	974
Materia Non Medica—Contribution from R H SALTER	976
Reading for Pleasure: Secondhand but not second-rate JANET THRUSH	977
Medicine and Books	979
Any Questions	963, 966, 978
Medicine and the Media—Contributions from JOHN SHEMILT, RICHARD SMITH, JAMES OWEN DRIFE, JILL BROWN	982
Personal View V P SMITH	983
Correction: Asbestos fibres GLOAG	978

CORRESPONDENCE—List of Contents	984
---------------------------------------	-----

OBITUARY	998
----------------	-----

NEWS AND NOTES

Views	1000
Parliament	1001
Medical News	1001
BMA Notices	1002

SUPPLEMENT

The Week	1003
Letter from Westminster WILLIAM RUSSELL	1004
Reviewing the distinction awards system in England and Wales, 1978 and 1979 S BOURNE, P BRUGGEN	1005
Index-linked pensions are essential NORMAN ELLIS	1008
Local ethical committees	1010

CORRESPONDENCE

Breast cancer: a case for conservation Sir Reginald Murley, FRCS.....	984	Facial palsy B W Lewis, MRCP; R S Trompeter, MRCP..	990	"British National Formulary" H K Ford, FRCP; C M Miller, FRCP.....	994
Cancer of the cervix and screening Dayantha S Fernando, MRCP.....	985	Secretory otitis media and grommets P K Schutte, MRCP.....	991	Amniotic fluid phospholipid profile D K James, MB, and A Harkes.....	994
Non-smoking wives of heavy smokers have a higher risk of lung cancer G H Miller, PhD; M Rutsch, MD.....	985	Effect of a low pertussis vaccination uptake on a large community J Wilson, FRCP.....	991	Female sterilisation—no more tubal coagulation M H Wilkins, FRCS, and N V Colley, MRCS; C Atkins, and H G Meredith.....	994
Levodopa: long-term impact on Parkinson's disease D M A Mann, PhD, and P O Yates, FRCPATH	985	Status epilepticus treated by barbiturate anaesthesia A W Logie, MRCP, and Pamela S Christian MSC.....	991	Clouded agarics C A Birch, FRCP.....	995
Prognosis of patients with "chest pain ?cause" D J Maberly, FRCP; J A C Thorpe, FRCS; P Bechgaard, MD; R T D FitzGerald, MB..	986	Urban hypothermia P J Bickford Smith, FFARCS; R Bowesman, MD.....	991	Patients in wheelchairs Maureen A Tudor, MB.....	995
Chest pain and cardiac arrest P G P Lawler, FFARCS; J M Rawles, MRCP and others; A D Redmond, MD.....	987	Echoes from the gall bladder J Jones, MRCP.....	992	Medical responsibilities of airlines B D Lask, MRCPsych.....	995
The pacing industry D B Shaw, MD.....	987	A trial speech screening test for school entrants E F Flint, FRCS; M J Rigby, BA, and Irene L Chesham, FFCM.....	992	Protest against punishment by amputation J P R McCulloch, MB.....	995
Legionella pneumophila and water systems H Gordon, MFCM; R J Fallon, FRCPATH....	988	Psoriasis and its treatment R H Seville, FRCP, and G B Walker, MB....	992	Reciprocal treatment for Britons in Greece S Doxiadis, FRCPED.....	995
A question of life and death Jane Riley, BSc; R M McFadzean, FRCS.....	988	Left hand, right hand M D Kopelman, MB; A A Beaton, PhD.....	992	Spectacle problems L G Fison, FRCS.....	995
Drug prevention of malaria A W Woodruff, FRCP, and others; G Y Caldwell, MB.....	988	Hunting rare adverse drug reactions C R Martys, MD.....	993	Spectacle frame prices S W V Davies, MB.....	996
Group B streptococcal infection M R Clements, MRCP, and D V Hamilton, MRCP.....	989	Do fetal movements reflect fetal wellbeing? D D Mathews, FRCOG; Kathryn A Rosenberg, PhD, and F A Boddy, FFCM.....	993	Still no widowers' pensions Anne L Grüneberg, FFARCS.....	996
Recurrent renal calculi W Brumfitt, FRCPATH, and others.....	989	"Rocking the Cradle" R G D Newill, MD.....	993	Mileage payments for hospital doctors C K Connolly, FRCP.....	996
Haemophilus influenzae endophthalmitis K R F Boomla, MRCP, and R P Quilliam, MRCP.....	989	Unquiet sleep L M Franklin, MRCPsych.....	994	Finding a practice—a further caveat P J Gorrod, ACA.....	996
Statistics and ethics in medical research J Dobbing, FRCPATH; D G Altman, BSc....	990	Five years in Bogalusa Cicely D Williams, FRCP.....	994	Acute hospital services in London K A M Grant, MFCM.....	996
Impaired glucose tolerance and diabetes—WHO criteria R J Jarrett, MD.....	990	They are still with us A J Duggan, FRCP.....	994	Preregistration posts and cuts J M Potter, FRCS.....	997
				"Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin" not free in Scotland M G Bamber, MB.....	997
				Oxfordshire AHA and making ends meet M H Gough, FRCS.....	997

We may return unduly long letters to the author for shortening so that we can offer readers as wide a selection as possible. We receive so many letters each week that we have to omit some of them. Letters must be signed personally by all their authors. We cannot acknowledge their receipt unless a stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

Correspondents should present their references in the Vancouver style (see examples in these columns). In particular, the names and initials of all authors must be given unless there are more than six, when only the first three should be given, followed by et al; and the first and last page numbers of articles and chapters should be included. Titles of papers are not, however, included in the correspondence section.

Breast cancer: a case for conservation

SIR,—In your leading article "Breast cancer: a case for conservation" (7 March, p 759) you refer to the pioneer work of Sir Geoffrey Keynes,¹ to whom the greatest credit should be given for encouraging some surgeons to look more critically at their results. Alas, in the 54 years since the publication of that report many have shown a curious reluctance to face the facts.

One of your predecessors was kind enough to publish a detailed review of conservative and radical surgery which three of us prepared in 1953.² That series was of considerable interest because it included all of Keynes's cases at St Bartholomew's Hospital in the decade 1930-9. Working on that study with a skilled radiotherapist and an excellent statistician, I personally learnt that, in terms of survival, there seemed little to choose

between different methods of treatment. Our group was impressed by the failure to improve survival and also by the increased morbidity of more radical methods. Indeed, there was some evidence that survival might be prejudiced, though this was not statistically significant.

Our survey showed that simple surgery carried a higher incidence of local recurrence, though in 127 of 216 cases the primary operation had consisted of no more than a local excision. Notwithstanding increased local recurrence, it was clear that limited surgery did not prejudice survival; but 10 of the 127 patients having local excisions subsequently had more extensive surgery.

It is now fashionable to advocate prospective randomised trials, though many fail to realise how difficult the conduct of such trials can be.

They become more difficult in the context of fully informed consent as this is now understood and acted on by the enlightened doctor. Moreover, many of the randomised trials in breast cancer have done no more than confirm what some of us previously learnt from scrupulously planned retrospective studies. I have no wish to seem scornful of the randomised prospective trial, but I do submit that far too many doctors have become obsessed with the concept without realising the snags when it comes to the management of intelligent and properly informed patients.

My personal participation in the Barts research has had a profound effect on my practice in the ensuing 28 years. I gave up radical surgery while the research was in progress and have never regretted that decision. For some years simple mastectomy with