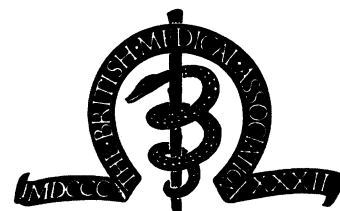


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

As so often happens these days, there's a lot about screening in this week's *BMJ*. Even apart from the unavoidable juxtaposition of three editorials on separate aspects, there's a disquieting amount of variation among the districts responding to a questionnaire about cervical screening (p 915), possibly owing to the sharp increase in workload, as shown by the Avon audit study (p 907). And we should not forget to be sensible about any action after minor abnormalities have been detected; as

the Avon authors point out, there is no "correct" protocol for determining this and doctors have to rely on their judgment. Finally, there's thankfulness for the alertness of a team of pharmacists and physicians when one considers the problems that can arise from the changes in the formulation of a drug: a 50-fold increase in bioavailability, discovered almost by chance, led to severe local reactions in six patients being given monthly intramuscular injections of vitamin A (p 924).