

# BMJ



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INTERNATIONAL

<b>Editorials</b>	247	<b>Multiple sclerosis: nature or nurture?</b> D C G Skegg
	248	<b>Picking up the tab for erythropoietin</b> Roger Gabriel
	249	<b>Prospective or retrospective: What's in a name?</b> Jan P Vandenbroucke
	250	<b>Revisiting the internal market</b> Chris Ham
	251	<b>Viruses and cervical cancer</b> Albert Singer, David Jenkins
<b>News</b>	253-258	Doctors and drug companies under fire in US · Debate on drug prices in eastern Europe · Starting again with clinical research · Risk management · Underfunding in provincial medical schools · Children damaged by parents' smoking · Disparity over personal injury awards in Europe · Towards equality in the NHS · Dutch investigate mentally ill · Correction: Juniors favour action over hours · Wistful way for women to surgery · The Week
<b>Papers</b>	259	<b>Hormone replacement therapy and survival after surgery for ovarian cancer</b> R A Eeles, S Tan, E Wiltshaw, I Fryatt, R P A'Hern, J H Shepherd, C L Harmer, P R Blake, C E D Chilvers
	262	<b>Spontaneous pneumothorax: marker gas technique for predicting outcome of manual aspiration</b> Douglas Seaton, Kathir Yoganathan, Thomas Coady, Richard Barker
	265	<b>Usefulness of immunotherapy in patients with severe summer hay fever uncontrolled by antiallergic drugs</b> V A Varney, M Gaga, A J Frew, V R Aber, A B Kay, S R Durham
	269	<b>Changes in haemostasis after stopping the combined contraceptive pill: implications for major surgery</b> G E Robinson, T Burren, I J Mackie, W Bounds, K Walshe, R Faint, J Guillebaud, S J Machin
	272	<b>Side effects expected and experienced by women receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer</b> A J Tierney, R C F Leonard, J Taylor, S J Closs, U Chetty, A Rodger
	272	<b>Effects of withdrawing erythropoietin</b> J E Taylor, I S Henderson, R A Mactier, W K Stewart
<b>Practice Observed</b>	274	<b>Study of general practice consultations and menopausal problems</b> D H Barlow, J A Brockie, C M P Rees, Oxford General Practitioners Menopause Study Group
<b>Middles</b>	277	<b>Nosocomial outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in AIDS patients</b> Pernille Ravn, Jens D Lundgren, Poul Kjeldgaard, Winnie Holten-Anderson, Niels Højlyng, Jens Ole Nielsen, Johannes Gaub
	280	<b>For Debate: What will the medical director do?</b> Ian H Johnston
	282	<b>How to organise a reunion of your undergraduate classmates</b> Colin Kenny
	283	<b>Letter from Chicago: Joe Doe's new year</b> George Dunea
	284	<b>Understanding Benefits: Mobility allowance</b> Simon Ennals
	286-300	<b>Obituary · Correspondence · Medicopolitical Digest · Medicine and the Media · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)</b>

# CONTENTS *pages 276-300*

276 **Fillers** Any Questions E R Beck (276); A Paton (276); David Elliman (285)

## 286 **Obituary**

M R Masser, K E A Norbury, M Rosenthal, H K Goadby, R W Biagi, W A Mackey, P B Barker, A Madwar, W H Miller

## 288 **Correspondence**

288 Rationing health care G Kelly, MB; S Ford; F Honigsbaum	292 Diagnostic utility of flumazenil in coma with suspected poisoning Z Ahmad, MB, and others
289 Trial by anecdote I Oswald, FRCPsych; A Stewart, MRCP; C P Freeman, MRCPsych	293 Archives of contemporary medicine and science L Dunn, FRCPsych
289 Homoeopathy: medicine or magic? Nicola Gould; A Manasse, MRCGP	293 Management of lung cancer S Costello, FRCR, and F Macbeth, FRCR; S G Spiro, FRCP
290 Congenital rubella in the Asian community Rosemary Beardow, MRCGP	293 GMC fee increases J K Gosnold, MRCGP; J Mellor, BM
290 Flouting the guidelines Lesley Bonner and Clare Harrison; C J Chandler, MRCOG; I Craft, FRCS, and others	294 Fees for completing attendance allowance reports D E Pickersgill, DOBSTRCOG
291 Bell ringers' bruises and broken bones I J Braithwaite, FRCS; A L Pahor, FRCS; M C E Hodge; P J R Bevis, PhD	294 Role confusion for MAAGs A J Munro, MRCP
292 Should religious circumcisions be performed on the NHS? P J Billings, FRCS, and others; M D Stringer, FRCS, and R J Brereton, DOBSTRCOG	294 Gulf war casualties S L Cohen, FRCP, and R F Armstrong, FFARCS; D L McLellan, FRCP; A Midgley, MB
292 Diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease N Wald, FRCP, and others	294 Drug points Immediate hypersensitivity to aztreonam and imipenem (P Hantson and others) 295 Severe hypoglycaemia after treatment with diphosphonate and aminoglycoside (U Pedersen-Bjergaard and J Myhre); Another quirk of quinine (C C Harland and L G Millard)

## 296 **Medicopolitical Digest**

296 Looking at students' benefits	296 Academic pay
296 GPs' blueprint for the future	296 Delays in breast screening
296 More second wave trusts	296 Medical new year honours

## 297 **Medicine and the Media**

297 Aristocracy of the moneybag Alex Paton  
297 A near myth Ian Robertson

## 298 **Personal View** Mushroom clouds and blood pressure Robin Stott

## 299 **Medicine and Books**

299 J Trevor Hughes: *Laughing Death: the Untold Story of Kuru* (V Zigas)  
299 Bernard Knight: *The Courts and the Doctor* (D J Gee, J K Mason)  
299 Noted

## 300 **Minerva**

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The activity that surrounds the advent of the new NHS (p 258) cannot completely camouflage the fact that one of the health service's underlying problems is still lack of funding. This is highlighted by a correspondent in the debate over the Oregon experiment (p 288) and illustrated closer to home by a short report that shows what happens to patients undergoing dialysis whose erythropoietin is suddenly withdrawn at the end of a trial (p 272). The answer, according to our editorial writer, is for general practitioners to prescribe it (p 248).

Three other fierce debates in the correspondence columns are on the side effects of fluoxetine (p 289), the control of GIFT (p 290), and the value of homoeopathy

(p 289); all have arisen out of Medicine and the Media reviews. Doctors may not like the way that the media handle medical issues, but television in particular is an increasingly important medium for conducting medical debates. We thus plan to ensure that television and other media are covered almost every week. This week's reviews are on the place of doctors in the class structure and panic attacks (p 297). Meanwhile, for those who dislike the anecdotal and prefer the epidemiological, another editorial suggests that researchers should stop stamping their work (wrongly) with the seal of approval implied by the word "prospective"—and instead describe what they actually did (p 249).