

R31. B55 BMJ

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 1991



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6806 VOLUME 303

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials	797	Guidelines for radiological investigations Roger Chisholm
	798	Where is the wisdom . . . ? Richard Smith
	799	Exogenous surfactants Peter Hope
	800	Verocytotoxin producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> M Gary Brook, Barbara A Bannister
	802	Lies, damned lies, and waiting lists John Yates
News	803-808	American plan on AIDS · Students in Europe · Environment · Discrimination: 1. Against mentally ill in US · 2. Against disabled in UK · Tartan health charter · Ethnic minorities · New CMO's vision · Childhood leukaemia · Private care abroad · Necropsies and audit · Dutch break medical monopoly · Health and safety · The Week
Papers	809	A multicentre audit of hospital referral for radiological investigation in England and Wales Royal College of Radiologists Working Party
	813	Radiographic examination of the lumbar spine in a community hospital: an audit of current practice Shawn F S Halpin, Lindsey Yeoman, Derek D Dundas
	815	Association between secretor status and respiratory viral illness M W Raza, C C Blackwell, P Molyneaux, V S James, M M Ogilvie, J M Inglis, D M Weir
	818	Mode of delivery after one caesarean section: audit of current practice in a health region Catherine M Paterson, Nigel J St G Saunders
	821	Differential effects of enalapril and atenolol on proteinuria and renal haemodynamics in non-diabetic renal disease Alfred J Apperloo, Dick de Zeeuw, Henk E Sluiter, Paul E de Jong
	825	Thrombocytosis and ischaemic complications in giant cell arteritis Jacques De Keyser, Nina De Klippel, Guy Ebinger
	825	Secretor status and heterosexual transmission of HIV C C Blackwell, V S James, S Davidson, R Wyld, R P Brettell, R J Robertson, D M Weir
	824	Correction: Review of neonatal screening programme for phenylketonuria Smith <i>et al</i>
General Practice	827	The Future of General Practice: General practice as a career Clive Richards
Education & Debate	829	Regular Review: Guidelines for management of patients with psoriasis Workshop of the Research Unit of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Department of Dermatology, University of Glasgow; British Association of Dermatologists
	836	The Health of the Nation: responses Strategy for a healthy environment Fiona Godlee
	838	Housing Stella Lowry
	840	Junior Doctors: The New Deal: Commitment vital for new deal Stephen Hunter
	842	The New NHS: Six Months On: East Birmingham: running faster on the spot Tony Delamothe
	845	ABC of Vascular Diseases: The young patient with claudication D T Reilly, John H N Wolfe
	849-866	Obituary · Correspondence · Medicopolitical Digest · Soundings · Medicine and the Media · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)

CONTENTS pages 849-866

849 Obituary

G B Simon, W J McGinness, Mary Barton, F A Blackwood, F McC Thomson

850 Correspondence

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>850 Omeprazole
R McCloy, FRCS; C W Howden, MD, and S Holt, MD;
R Harrington; R Goodlad and N A Wright,
FRCPATH</p> <p>851 Confidentiality taken to the extreme
P R Brinsden, FRCOG; I Craft, FRCOG</p> <p>852 Papaveretum in women of childbearing potential
J R Sneyd, FFARCS</p> <p>852 From audit to quality and beyond
R A Fiskien, MRCP; A S David, MRCPSYCH;
Fiona Moss, MRCP</p> <p>853 Physiotherapy exercises and back pain
B Koes, MA, and others</p> <p>853 Computers in audit: servants or sirens?
I K Crombie, PHD, and H T O Davies, MSC;
M Emberton, FRCS; G Stansby, FRCS, and
M Osborne, FRCS</p> <p>854 Not research and development
R Madhok, MFPHM, and others</p> <p>854 Post-traumatic stress disorders
T P Linehan, FRCGP</p> <p>854 Gas gangrene
N Mercer, FRCS, and D M Davies, FRCS; E R T C
Owen, FRCS(GEN), and P J Lehner, MRCP</p> <p>855 Psychological therapy in the NHS
S Wilson, FRCPSYCH, and P Agulnik, FRCPSYCH</p> <p>855 Oral rehydration in gastroenteritis
M Beattie and N Evans</p> | <p>855 DMPA and bone density
Katharina Dalton, FRCGP, and M J T Dalton,
MRCGP</p> <p>855 Advances in cell kinetics
K E Williamson and others</p> <p>856 Pain after subcutaneous injection of erythropoietin
S F Lui and others</p> <p>856 Treating bony metastases
C A Baughan</p> <p>856 Progress in the wrong direction
J A Hicklin, FRCP</p> <p>856 Ethics, commerce, and kidneys
A S Mohamed, MRCP, and N Velasco, MRCP</p> <p>857 Deprivation indices
J Radford, MRCGP, and Doreen Campbell, MB</p> <p>857 Mandatory assessment of patients aged over 75
M K Thompson, FRCGP</p> <p>857 American perspective on NHS reforms
R Cowan; J Aylward, MRCGP</p> <p>857 Set menus and clinical freedom
P Kinnersley, MRCGP, and others</p> <p>858 Nursing: an intellectual activity
J Burton, FRCS; W Vennells, MRCP</p> <p>858 Payment for drugs
P Thomas, MRCGP</p> <p>858 Fellowship of the RCGP by assessment
D Pereira Gray, FRCGP</p> <p>858 Followed to the letter
E P M Williamson, FRCS</p> |
|--|--|

859 Medicopolitical Digest

Clinical academics' pay rise · Public health and mergers · Minister and falling morale · Associate specialists · Child health surveillance · Health strategy group · NHS guide on Children Act

861 Soundings

- 861 Letter from Chicago: Flying down under George Dunea
- 861 Social mobility up and down Tony Smith

862 Medicine and the Media

- 862 On camera Mark Emberton and Robert Fox

863 Personal View

- 863 Living over the shop T C O'Dowd

864 Medicine and Books

- 864 Leone Ridsdale: *Examining Doctors* (D Gould)
- 864 Jack Collin: *Raynaud's Syndrome* (Ed E D Cooke, A N Nicolaides, J M Porter)
- 865 Stephen Farrow: *The Measurement of Health: Concepts and Indicators* (J S Larson)
- 865 Peter J Baxter: *Concerning the Carers: Occupational Health for Health Care Workers* (J A Lunn, H A Waldron)

866 Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The drive to reduce unnecessary exposure of patients to radiation is hugely important and gaining momentum. The Royal College of Radiologists has followed up its 1987 report on the subject with a baseline study looking at what was happening before the guidelines were introduced (p 809): it confirms that probably a fifth of radiographs taken in Britain were clinically unhelpful; shows that referral rates varied as much as 25-fold; and discovers that five of six centres investigated could not meet the requirements of the 1988 Ionising Radiation Regulations. An accompanying audit of 100 patients referred for radiography of the lumbar spine showed that half of the radiographs were unnecessary (p 813). Roger Chisholm hopes in an

editorial that the college's guidelines will help translate the intention to reduce unnecessary exposure into reality (p 797). Another drive that is under way in Britain and many other countries is to reduce the hours that junior doctors have to work. Many junior doctors are angry about the slow progress, but today Stephen Hunter, a medical politician who has made his name by tackling the issue, starts a series of articles explaining why reform has proved so difficult (p 840). Finally, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act has thrown up some legal bizzarrie. Peter Brinsden points out in a letter (p 851) that because of the act he is not allowed to talk to anybody—not even his own lawyer—about an accusation made about him by a patient.