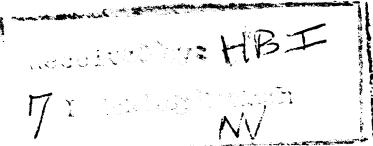


BMJ



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6869 VOLUME 306

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials

1	Save the normal foreskin Andrew Gordon, Jack Collin
2	A counsellor in every practice? Mike Pringle, John Laverty
3	Auditing <i>BMJ</i> decision making Richard Smith
4	Laser treatment of portwine stains M J C Van Gemert, J A S Carruth, P G Shakespeare
5	Treating persistent glue ear in children Ruut A De Melker
6	Academic medicine: plenty of room at the top Richard Smith

News

7-12	Continuing medical education · NHS information strategy · Call for more doctors · Tony Bland still waiting · Trusts on trial · The Week
------	--

Papers

13	Ethnic differences in mortality from sudden infant death syndrome in New Zealand E A Mitchell, A W Stewart, R Scragg, R P K Ford, B J Taylor, D M O Becroft, J M D Thompson, I B Hassall, D M J Barry, E M Allen, A P Roberts
16	Sudden infant death syndrome: links with infant care practices M Gantley, D P Davies, A Murcott
20	Investigation of inheritance of chronic inflammatory bowel diseases by complex segregation analysis Marianne Orholm, Lennart Iselius, Thorkild I A Sørensen, Pia Munkholm, Ebbe Langholz, Vibke Binder
24	Initiation of hypertension in utero and its amplification throughout life C M Law, M de Swiet, C Osmond, P M Fayers, D J P Barker, A M Cruddas, C H D Fall
28	Why are children referred for circumcision? Nigel Williams, Julian Chell, Leela Kapila

General Practice

29	Counsellors in English and Welsh general practices: their nature and distribution Bonnie Sibbald, Julia Addington-Hall, Douglas Brenneman, Paul Freeling
33	The Future of FHSAs: From FPC to FHSAs to . . . health commission? June Huntington

Education & Debate

37	Gestational diabetes: a non-entity? R J Jarrett
39	William Waldegrave on science policy Richard Smith
42	London after Tomlinson: The Tomlinson report and postgraduate medical education J D Swales
44	Countdown to Community Care: Moving ahead—community care in Gwent Roger Robinson
48	ABC of Monitoring Drug Therapy: Making the most of plasma drug concentration measurements D J M Reynolds, J K Aronson
51	Medical Education: Assessment of students Stella Lowry
55	Instructions to authors

58-76	Obituary · Letters · Medicopolitical Digest · Soundings · Personal View · Medicine and the Media · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)
-------	---

CONTENTS pages 58-76

58 Obituary

A Bloom, D Keith, H A S van den Brenk, N Hamlin, D J Dodge, J M Brown, J F H Eagles, H E Harding, E S Reed

60 Letters

60	Pet birds and lung cancer L Kohlmeier and others; A Gardiner and P Lee; A Morabia; D Coggon; F H J Rampen	65	Driving and diabetes S Keetarut
61	Misuse of anabolic drugs D J Williamson; R J Robinson and S White; J S Bevan; K Shotliff and M Asante; J R Salaman	66	Distinguishing inhalers to aid blind people D C Hoye
62	Tomlinson report S Dische; P D Toon and others; A Livingstone	66	Medical education P Cooles; G Roberts; B Olsburgh
63	Use of oral contraceptives by adolescents in Finland C Fleming and others; A Rimpelä; J Sterland	66	Dangers of review articles E Søreide and P A Steen
63	Vaccination against <i>H influenzae</i> type b E Booy and others	67	Audit and research A Bull
63	Health and safety in general practice G C Goodman and D Tivey	67	Italian NHS E Terzian and G Tognoni
64	Electronic communication J Clarke and P J R Harkin; P J Branger; P R Hunter and I Green	67	Junior doctors' hours M McKee and N Black; J Wight; E Field
64	General practitioners' access to paediatric cardiologists D J Manning	68	Specialist training G S Spathis
65	Asking patients about their treatment K Lawrence and others; J Shanks; T Sensky and J Catalan	68	Abortion in Poland Z Szawarski
		68	Health economics in the NHS M Jennings
		68	Interpreting fluorescein angiograms B Harney

69 Medicopolitical Digest

BMA calls for ministerial meeting on NHS funding · GPs and consultants debate Tomlinson report · Health committee · Labour's community care campaign · £1m budget for mental health · Cash increases for RHAs

71 Soundings Informed consumers George Dunea; Toxic decisions Tony Smith

72 Personal View An industry out of control Richard Hackett

73 Medicine and the Media On giants' shoulders Thomas Cooter; Tipping the balance Tony Smith

74 Medicine and Books

74 Malcolm L Chiswick: *Effective Care of the Newborn Infant* (Ed J C Sinclair, M B Bracken)
74 Stephen Scott: *Nobody Nowhere* (D Williams)
75 S H Green: *Cerebral Palsy: The Child and Young Person* (Management of Disability Series) (Ed L Cogher,
E Savage, M F Smith)

76 Minerva

A place for qualitative research

Medical journals are increasingly dominated by research papers that use statistics, and most editors are convinced that this is an important development after centuries of medical anecdote. Nevertheless, there remains an important place for qualitative research, and a paper in this issue uses anthropological techniques to deepen our understanding of cot deaths (p 16). The authors have investigated why Bangladeshi families living in Cardiff have much lower rates of cot death than Welsh families, and they hypothesise that the reason may be that Bangladeshi mothers always keep their babies close to them. "I like to wake up in the night and see all my family around me," said one mother. Another paper from New Zealand examines why cot deaths are so much commoner among Maoris than non-Maoris and concludes that it is probably because recognised risk factors—like socioeconomic disadvantage—are commoner among Maoris (p 13). Oddly enough, in this survey sleeping with the baby increased the risk of cot death.

One of the editorial principles of the *BMJ* is that doctors in different countries have much to learn from each other by studying how common problems are

tackled. To this end we publish regular international round ups, and this week's one looks at how six different countries are tackling the problem of what to do about doctors who don't participate in continuing medical education (p 7). The countries use various mixtures of sticks and carrots.

A new series begins this week on the future of family health services authorities (p 33). June Huntington describes how these bodies are evolving from the reactive, largely administrative family practitioner committees into proactive bodies that want to manage primary care. The challenge will be for them to develop services without heavyhandedly destroying their unique and local flavour.

Finally, we have a clutch of letters on the misuse of anabolic drugs (p 61). One letter reports a survey of almost 700 students showing that 4% of the men and 1% of the women had used anabolic steroids, while other letters report side effects including pulmonary emboli and rhabdomyolysis. A surgeon from Cardiff describes two male bodybuilders who wanted to have prominent breast tissue excised and notes that it is now common for such people to take tamoxifen as well as anabolic steroids.

BMJ

Editor's
Choice