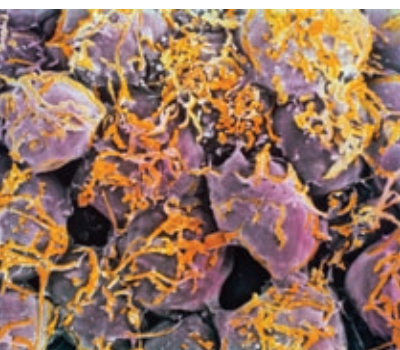




Sting from a weever fish, p 592



Removing ova without consent, p 557



Impact factors, p 561, p 568, p 586



A film that has a lot to teach doctors, p 589

## EDITORIALS

- 543 Why the UK's Medical Training Application Service failed**  
No convincing validation of the new process was provided, says Tony Delamothe
- 544 Indwelling stents after ureteroscopy**  
Can cause significant postoperative morbidity and should be used with caution, say Colin H Wilson and David A Rix  
» [Research p 572](#)
- 545 Perinatal death in twins**  
Should all term multiple pregnancies be delivered by elective caesarean section, asks Philip Steer  
» [Research p 576](#)
- 546 Caring for the oldest old**  
As the population ages the costs of care will rise, argue Domhnall MacAuley and Zoe Slote Morris  
» [Analysis p 570](#)
- 547 Reed Elsevier's arms trade**  
Scientific communities must work together to prevent the sale of arms, say Charles Young and Fiona Godlee

## LETTERS

- 549 MMC**  
Regulation  
Specialist centres
- 550 Postpartum depression**  
Diagnosing hyponatraemia  
Publisher boycott

## NEWS

- 551 Fracture risk is a class effect of glitazones**  
Better planning needed for phase I drug trials
- 552 Challenge to Australia's drug rationing scheme fails**  
Exempt MRI scanners from new EU rules  
Laughter, learnt of friends
- 553 WHO confronts Chinese company over malaria drug**  
TB and AIDS researchers fail to work together
- 554 High volume hospitals better for vascular surgery**  
Audit identifies the most read *BMJ* papers
- 555 Reid wrong about comfort of smoking**  
Doctors want euthanasia decriminalised
- 556 Organ recipients may die when insurance runs out**  
Watchdog slates doctors' out of hours provision  
MPs broadly welcome proposals for health research
- 557 Doctor took ova without consent**
- 558 SHORT CUTS**  
What's new in the other general journals  
What's new in *BMJ* journals

## FEATURE

- 561 How impact factors changed medical publishing—and science**  
Hannah Brown investigates journal rankings

## OBSERVATIONS

- ATLANTIC CROSSING**
- 565 The trouble with US military medicine**  
Uwe E Reinhardt
- MEDICINE AND THE MEDIA**
- 566 "We saw human guinea pigs explode": coverage of the TGN1412 trial in the printed media**  
L Stobbart, M J Murtagh, T Rapley, G A Ford, S J Louw, H Rodgers

## HEAD TO HEAD

- 568 Should we ditch impact factors?**  
Gareth Williams says yes; Richard Hobbs says no

## ANALYSIS

- 570 Who will care for the oldest people?**  
The number of informal carers for frail elderly people is set to fall steeply. Jean-Marie Robine and colleagues propose a way to assess the trend that should help policy makers plan for the deficit

## RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE

See next page

## VIEWS AND REVIEWS

- PERSONAL VIEW**
- 586 Advice to new editor**  
Christopher Martyn
- REVIEW OF THE WEEK**
- 587 Celebrating the medical past, again**  
Balaji Ravichandran
- COLUMNISTS**
- 588 The poverty of expectation** Des Spence  
Hidden extras Ike Iheanacho
- 589 The foul taste of medicine** Theodore Dalrymple
- MEDICAL CLASSICS**
- 589 The doctor** David Memel

## OBITUARIES

- 590 Job Joab Bwayo, David Ivor Bowen, Stuart Harvey Green, Patricia Mary Leeson, Peter Ogilvie Leggat, Nicholas Taptiklis, Ethel Hunter Waddy**

## MINERVA

- 592 Poetry for physicians, and other stories**

## FILLERS

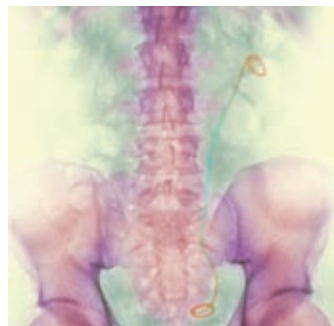
- 578 No effect**
- 585 Unsafe driving**



UK report aims to protect trial guinea pigs, such as Navneet Modi, p 551



Birth order of twins and perinatal death, p 576



Stenting after ureteroscopy, p 572



Generalised anxiety disorder, p 579



Treatment of asthma in pregnancy, p 582

## RESEARCH

### 572 Outcomes of stenting after uncomplicated ureteroscopy: systematic review and meta-analysis

Current, imperfect evidence suggests that patients with stents have more lower urinary tract symptoms such as dysuria and frequency or urgency than those without stents

» Editorial p 544

Ghulam Nabi, J Cook, J N'Dow, S McClinton

### 576 Birth order of twins and risk of perinatal death related to delivery in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales, 1994-2003: retrospective cohort study

At term, the second twin had more than twice the risk of perinatal death and more than three times the risk of death from anoxia

» Editorial p 545

Gordon C S Smith, Kate M Fleming, Ian R White

## CLINICAL REVIEW

### 579 Generalised anxiety disorder

About 1-5% of the general population report having generalised anxiety disorder. This review summarises the diagnostic criteria and the evidence for efficacious treatments

Christopher Gale, Oliver Davidson

## PRACTICE

### 582 Asthma in pregnancy

This is the first in the Pregnancy plus series of occasional articles about how to manage a pre-existing medical condition during pregnancy

Evelyne Rey, Louis-Philippe Boulet

## LATEST RESEARCH ONLINE

### Fetal growth in early pregnancy and risk of delivering low birth weight infant: prospective cohort study

Radek Bukowski, Gordon C S Smith, Fergal D Malone, Robert H Ball, David A Nyberg, Christine H Comstock, Gary D V Hankins, Richard L Berkowitz, Susan J Gross, Lorraine Dugoff, Sabrina D Craigo, Ilan E Timor-Tritsch, Stephen R Carr, Honor M Wolfe, Mary E D'Alton

### Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea: systematic review and meta-analysis

Thomas Clasen, Wolf-Peter Schmidt, Tamer Rabie, Ian Roberts, Sandy Cairncross

### Parenting programme for parents of children at risk of developing conduct disorder: cost effectiveness analysis

Rhiannon T Edwards, Alan Ó Céilleachair, Tracey Bywater, Dyfrig A Hughes, Judy Hutchings

### Parenting intervention in Sure Start services for children at risk of developing conduct disorder: pragmatic randomised controlled trial

Judy Hutchings, Tracey Bywater, Dave Daley, Frances Gardner, Chris Whitaker, Karen Jones, Catrin Eames, Rhiannon T Edwards

### Impact of NHS walk-in centres on primary care access times: ecological study

Ravi Maheswaran, Tim Pearson, James Munro, Moyez Jiwa, Michael J Campbell, Jon Nicholl

### Tonsillectomy versus watchful waiting in recurrent streptococcal pharyngitis in adults: randomised controlled trial

Olli-Pekka Alho, Petri Koivunen, Tomi Penna, Heikki Teppo, Markku Koskela, Jukka Luotonen

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STEVE FORREST/REX

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Actor Stephen Fry, who has spoken out publicly about his experiences of bipolar disorder, has taken on the role of ambassador for new international organisation Equilibrium—The Bipolar Foundation ([www.bipolar-foundation.org](http://www.bipolar-foundation.org)), which was launched last week.

## THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

**2000** French healthcare workers, including doctors, who admit to having killed a terminally ill patient (News p 557)

**2:1** Ratio of the incidence of generalised anxiety disorder in women to men (Clinical review p 579)

**9.052** The BMJ's impact factor for 2005, based on 59 516 total citations (Feature p 561)

**2.25** Relative risk of lower urinary tract symptoms in people who had a stent inserted after ureteroscopy (Research p 572)

**140** Prominent academics who signed a letter to the Times to condemn Reed Elsevier's links to the arms trade (Editorial p 547)

## THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“Compared with first twins, second twins born at term were at increased risk of perinatal death related to delivery” (Research p 576)

“Arms fairs also sell torture equipment to regimes that might be seen as less legitimate or legal” (Letter p 550)

“The welfare state is failing our most deprived populations” (From the frontline p 588)

“Smokers have lower levels of pleasure and quality of life than those who have never smoked” (News p 557)

“You need to concentrate on raising your impact factor, and there's no time to lose” (Personal view p 586)



## ON THE COVER

## Finding your way around the impact factor

See Feature, p 561,  
Head to head, p 568  
Personal view, p 586

COVER IMAGE: CLAUDIA BENTLEY

## PLUS

## In this week's BMJ careers

Dilemmas of clinical attachments  
Forensic medicine: caring for  
rape and sexual assault victims

MSc in sports and exercise  
medicine

Dermatology to drug  
development

MTAS mayhem

Articles appearing in this  
print journal are likely to have  
been shortened. To see the full  
version of articles go to  
[bmj.com](http://bmj.com).

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that is supplementary to  
articles: this will be indicated  
in the text (references will be  
given as w1, w2, etc) of the  
article and be labelled as extra  
on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com).

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## Real impact

Here's something that affects the behaviour and even careers of many contributors to the *BMJ*, yet many readers couldn't care less about it. Editors fall somewhere in between. It's the impact factor, a measure of citations to articles in the journal, which is "capable of recognising some value, some quality" (p 569) or is "worthless" (p 568), or has indirectly "distorted the fundamental character of journals" (p 561), or has yielded "a league table that no one but a fool would take seriously" (p 586), depending on your point of view.

Despite all of this, we're quite pleased with the *BMJ*'s current impact factor of over 9, and we would be fools not to tell prospective authors about it. But Groucho Marx said he didn't care to belong to any club that would have him as a member, and he had a point. The *BMJ* is not going to put impact factor above what matters to readers.

Readers' views greatly influenced our recent redesign. Your rapid responses keep us on our toes, day in day out. Your hits on and downloads of research articles on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com), along with citation rates, show us whether our peer review system is on the right track. Indeed, this week we announce the top 10 *BMJ* research papers of 2005 (p 554)—and, no, this wasn't a ploy to bump up those papers' citation rates. We shorten research papers to make them more readable in the print journal and provide immediate open access to their full text on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com), even though, for many researchers choosing a journal, impact factor still eats open access for breakfast (<http://resources.bmj.com/files/talks/open-access-and-quality.ppt>).

Richard Lehman, in his weekly blog on medical journals, describes another long running saga: the stent wars (<http://blogs.bmj.com/category/comment/medical-journals-review/>). He's talking about coronary artery stents, but he notes that the generic term came from a dentist, Charles Stent, who invented a metal stay to keep gingival grafts in place. In a systematic review this week Ghuliam Nabi and colleagues look at another kind of stent, the sort that is often inserted into the ureter after extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy and ureteroscopy (p 572). The nine randomised trials they included in their systematic review and meta-analysis lacked some important details but suggested that such stenting does little for patients and leaves them with irritating lower urinary tract symptoms.

In an editorial Colin Wilson and David Rix ask what impact this evidence should have on doctors' decisions (p 544). Strike a balance, they say, between the morbidity associated with stents and the possible risk of ureteric obstruction; develop a grading system for ureteric trauma; and produce validated guidelines on when to insert stents. Best of all, make ureterorenoscopy safer in the first place.

I can't finish without mentioning the issue that, right now, is having more impact on many of our UK readers' lives than anything else—the UK's process for selecting candidates for specialist training, the Medical Training Application Service. As Tony Delamothe says, doctors in other parts of the world such as the US have lived and worked with similar systems for years, and it's going to take time to work out what or how much has gone wrong in the UK (p 543) Meanwhile, keep telling us what you think.

**Trish Groves deputy editor ([tgroves@bmj.com](mailto:tgroves@bmj.com))**

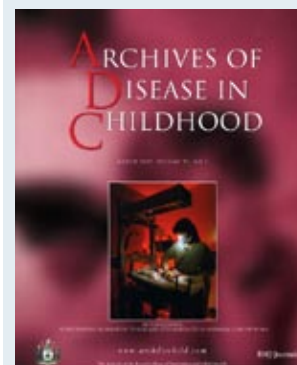
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*student BMJ* is looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated, and imaginative medical student to be the next student editor. Starting in June 2007 the post is for one year based at BMA House, London. To apply or find out more <http://www.studentbmj.com/issues/06/04/careers/161.php>

## BMJ Masterclass in Geriatric Medicine

Wednesday 9 May 2007, London  
Friday 15 June 2007, Manchester  
<http://www.bmjmasterclasses.com/geriatrics/?BMJ1703>



## Archives of Disease in Childhood – Fetal and Neonatal edition

*ADC Fetal and Neonatal edition* brings together quality research and reviews in the field of perinatal and neonatal medicine. The journal covers fetal and neonatal physiology, clinical practice, genetics, perinatal epidemiology, and neurodevelopmental outcomes. [www.adc.bmj.com](http://www.adc.bmj.com)

## What are the effects of treatments for generalised anxiety disorder?

See also an up to date review of generalised anxiety disorder from *BMJ Clinical Evidence* at [www.clinicalevidence.com](http://www.clinicalevidence.com)

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