



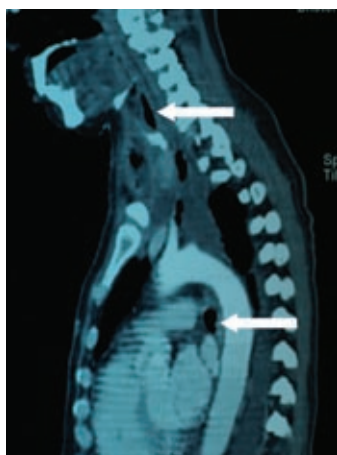
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Iona Heath

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- 1219 Is there an epidemic of admissions for surgical treatment of dental abscesses in the UK?**  
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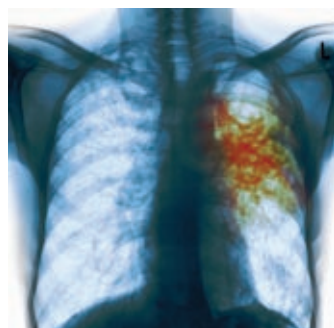
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Survival of extremely premature babies, p 1221



Increasing antituberculosis drug resistance in the UK, p 1231



Management of retinal detachment, p 1235



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## RESEARCH

### 1221 Survival of extremely premature babies in a geographically defined population: prospective cohort study of 1994-9 compared with 2000-5

Survival at 24 and 25 weeks' gestation in the UK Trent region significantly increased, but there was no improvement in survival at 23 weeks and no infants born at 22 weeks survived despite advances in care

David J Field, Jon S Dorling, Bradley N Manktelow, Elizabeth S Draper

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### 1223 Nortriptyline plus nicotine replacement versus placebo plus nicotine replacement for smoking cessation: pragmatic randomised controlled trial

In 901 people at NHS stop smoking service clinics adding nortriptyline to nicotine replacement therapy made no significant difference to quit rates, withdrawal symptoms, or urge to smoke but did reduce anxiety and depression initially

Paul Aveyard, Carol Johnson, Sally Fillingham, Amanda Parsons, Mike Murphy

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### 1227 Hormone replacement therapy and risk of venous thromboembolism in postmenopausal women: systematic review and meta-analysis

Women with prothrombotic mutations or a high body mass index should avoid oral oestrogens, but transdermal preparations seem to be safer

Marianne Canonico, Geneviève Plu-Bureau, Gordon D O Lowe, Pierre-Yves Scarabin

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### 1231 Increasing antituberculosis drug resistance in the United Kingdom: analysis of national surveillance data

A significant rise in the prevalence of isoniazid resistance from 5-7% probably reflects the rise in drug resistant cases in people from sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian subcontinent and inadequate control of transmission in London

Michelle E Kruijshaar, John M Watson, Francis Drobniewski, Charlotte Anderson, Timothy J Brown, John G Magee, E Grace Smith, Alistair Story, Ibrahim Abubakar

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### 1235 Management of retinal detachment: a guide for non-ophthalmologists

Hyong Kwon Kang, A J Luff

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Junior doctors can find the process of doing an audit helpful in gaining an understanding of the healthcare process—here's how to do one

Andrea Benjamin

### 1246 Guidelines: Risk assessment and lipid modification for primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease: summary of NICE guidance

This is one of a series of *BMJ* summaries of new guidelines, which are based on the best available evidence; they will highlight important recommendations for clinical practice, especially where uncertainty or controversy exists

Angela Cooper, Norma O'Flynn, on behalf of the Guideline Development Group

### 1248 Commentary: Controversies in NICE guidance on lipid modification for the prevention of cardiovascular disease

Francesco P Cappuccio

## RESEARCH PUBLISHED AHEAD OF PRINT

### Doctors' versus patients' global assessments of treatment effectiveness: empirical survey of diverse treatments in clinical trials

*BMJ*, doi:10.1136/bmj.39560.759572.BE

Evangelos Evangelou, Georgios Tsianos, John P A Ioannidis

## CARBON REDUCTION AND HEALTH

### A guide to reducing the footprint of the health sector

A joint meeting organised by the BMJ, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health & Faculty of Public Health

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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A huge tinplate portrait of Aneurin Bevan, the founder of the NHS, by the artist Dylan Hammond, was unveiled last week at the Welsh Assembly building, Cardiff. The artwork can be seen from the inside and outside.

See Analysis p 1216.

## THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

**4 times** Increased risk of thromboembolism in women in the first year of taking oral oestrogen (Research p 1227)

**60** Average age at presentation of retinal detachment; both sexes are affected equally (Clinical Review p 1235)

**8000** Cases of tuberculosis reported in 2006 in the UK (Editorial p 1201)

**22%** Proportion of people surveyed who refused dental treatment because of cost (Analysis p 1219)

**350** Mental health inreach workers providing services in 102 English prisons (News p 1210)

## THE WEEK IN QUOTES

**“Survival rates in infants born at 24 and 25 weeks’ gestation have clearly improved in the past 12 years”** (Research p 1221)

**“The most frequently cited barrier to successful clinical audit is [insufficient] protected time for healthcare teams to participate”** (Practice p 1241)

**“It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us”** (Letter p 1206)

**“I had been on the receiving end of death by PowerPoint one too many times”** (Outside the Box p 1252)

**“The ‘deep clean’ of hospitals ordered by the secretary of state has been described as unscientific”** (News p 1210)



## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## Old wisdoms



MARK THOMAS

**Analysis, p 1216**

Cover image shows an inscription over the door of a former health centre in Southwark, south London, dating from 1937. The background of the image has been digitally extended—the inscription is shown in situ below. The text is a translation of a quotation from the Roman writer Cicero; the original Latin was “Salus populi suprema lex.”



The NHS will be 60 this July. The anniversary will provide an excuse for a bit of nostalgia—those black and white pictures of tidily dressed men, women, and children in orderly queues—but also for much analysis about the role and survival of a comprehensive, universal, centrally funded, free-at-the-point-of-use healthcare system in the 21st century.

Our contribution to that analysis begins this week with the start of Tony Delamothe's six-part series on the NHS at 60 (p 1216). In his first article he looks at how “the socialist dream came to be dreamt in the first place.” Although the NHS derived its immediate impetus from the second world war and the election of a Labour government with a mandate for radical change, the idea of a national health service had been around for much longer. As Delamothe explains, although the aspirations were widely shared, the arguments over the detail, and in particular over funding and ownership, were bitter—and, he argues, they remain unsettled even now. Over the next five weeks he examines how the founding principles have fared.

In constructing this series of articles Tony Delamothe might have quoted: “The past is not always a foreign country, and it still has a lot to teach us,” but in fact it is Simon Wessely who does so this week, in his review of the *Textbook of Disaster Psychiatry* (p 1251).

Wessely explains that before 1980 everyone assumed that people who were mentally robust before a disaster would recover smoothly afterwards. After 1980 some argued that long term disorders could arise even in the most

robust individuals. The “result was an explosion of interest and research” in post traumatic stress disorder and the belief (now recognised to have been mistaken) that everyone who experienced a disaster needed help in the form of immediate psychological interventions such as debriefing. Yet, Wessely says, lessons learnt in the second world war remain true today: people in cities bombed into submission don't necessarily cave in. As a 1940 report put it: “The morale of the bombed largely depends on the care they get in the first 36 hours . . . rest centres, facilities for children, information, health care and the provision of food.”

Another bit of revisionism comes from Narci Teoh and Francis Bowden, who argue for bringing back the long case as a means of assessing medical students' clinical skills (p 1250). The long case has fallen into disuse because of doubts about its inter-case reliability, but Teoh and Bowden think it is valuable because it encourages trainees to learn medicine in an integrated way. They argue that the clinical skills of some final year medical students deteriorate if they spend most of their time studying for written assessments. Omitting the long case plays down the centrality in medical practice of the encounter with the patient: “Could we conceive of a music student [whose acceptability depends] on a series of assessments of scales and short pieces but never on a recital of a complete piece of music?”

**Jane Smith, deputy editor, BMJ** [jsmith@bmj.com](mailto:jsmith@bmj.com)

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