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Misleading adverts in Russia, p 1315



Regenerative medicine, p 1320



War and Medicine, p 1358

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Is highest in people with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, says Udo Reulbach and Stefan Bleich » *Research, p 1328, 1331*
- 1304 Screening for colorectal cancer**
Should be tailored to available resources, local experience, and population characteristics, says Joan Austoker and Paul Hewitson » *Research, p 1341*
- 1305 Caffeine intake during pregnancy**
Should be minimised, but not replaced with unhealthy alternatives, says Jørn Olsen and Bodil Hammer Bech » *Research, p 1334*
- 1306 Auditory processing disorders**
Can cause educational, behavioural, and social problems but are often undiagnosed, says Doris-Eva Bamiou and Linda M Luxon
- 1307 Coronary stent thrombosis in the perioperative period**
Is potentially life threatening, but simple steps can minimise the risk, says Nicholas LM Cruden, Scott A Harding, and David E Newby

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- 1309 Doctors' health**
- 1310 Statin induced myopathy; Medical classics**

NEWS

- 1311 Health secretary asks commission to look into role of four NHS trusts in Baby P case**
Legal tactics to delay launch of generic drugs cost Europe €3bn
- 1312 Doctors fear epidemic as measles cases in England and Wales reach highest peak for 13 years**
Compulsory reporting of stabbings is no panacea for knife crime, surgeon tells MPs
- 1313 Eli Lilly encouraged patients to ask for a prescription drug**
Charity sets up fund to defend researcher being sued for libel
- 1314 GPs need help to improve early cancer diagnosis**
Charity channels cash into cancers with poor survival
Hospital care often lacks compassion
- 1315 Russia defies WHO antismoking rules**
3D images: head and shoulders above the rest
- 1316 Politician refuses to renew scientist's research licence**
India considers vaccine strategy to eliminate polio
- 1317 Report sparks controversy over cause of children's symptoms**
Church opposes reproductive health bill

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- 1318 What's new in the other general journals**

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- 1320 Regeneration games**
Surgeons in Spain have recently transplanted a bioengineered human airway. But there's often much hype surrounding regenerative medicine. Geoff Watts investigates

1322 On commission

The King's Fund review of practice based commissioning suggests that Mark Britnell, the NHS director general of commissioning and system management, faces a tough challenge. Matthew Limb talks to him about his role

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Tessa Richards

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- 1325 What are the prospects of stem cell therapy for neurology?**
Effective treatments for neurological diseases have proved elusive. Siddharthan Chandran examines the potential of stem cells to provide the answers

RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE

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- 1360 Feelings of hopelessness and metabolic syndrome, and other stories**

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1352 What types of article does the BMJ consider?

Person centred care or public health improvement? p 1355





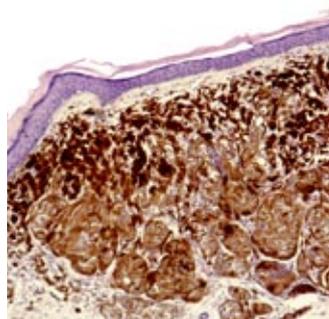
PETER DAZELEY/GETTY IMAGES

Self harm after discharge from psychiatric inpatient care, pp 1328, 1331



STEVE BACCON/GETTY IMAGES

Maternal caffeine intake during pregnancy and fetal growth restriction, p 1334



STEVE GSCHMEISSNER/SPL

Managing melanoma, p 1345



DOUCANE MEDICAL IMAGING LTD/SPL

Metastatic spinal cord compression, pp 1349, 1351

RESEARCH

1328 Risk of suicide after suicide attempt according to coexisting psychiatric disorder: Swedish cohort study with long term follow-up

The highest population attributable fractions for suicide were for other depression in women (population attributable fraction 9.3), followed by schizophrenia in men (4.6), and bipolar and unipolar disorder in women and men (4.1 and 4.0), with around half of completed suicides occurring within a year of the first attempt

Dag Tidemalm, Niklas Långström, Paul Lichtenstein, Bo Runeson

» Editorial p 1313; Research p 1331

1331 Hospital admissions for self harm after discharge from psychiatric inpatient care: cohort study

Among patients aged 16–64 who were discharged from psychiatric units in England 6.5% were readmitted for an episode of self harm within a year: previous self-harm was the strongest predictor

David Gunnell, Keith Hawton, Davidson Ho, Jonathan Evans, Susan O'Connor, John Potokar, Jenny Donovan, Nav Kapur

» Editorial p 1313; Research p 1328

1334 Maternal caffeine intake during pregnancy and risk of fetal growth restriction: a large prospective observational study

Even among these mostly full term, low risk, pregnancies with birth weights within the normal range there was a dose-response relation: one cup of coffee daily was associated with growth restriction of 34–59 g in the first, 24–74 g in the second, and about 66–89 g in the third trimester

CARE Study Group

» Editorial p 1315

1338 Drug use in children: cohort study in three European countries

Primary care databases in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Italy yielded data on more than five million paediatric prescriptions during 2000–2005: prescribing patterns varied greatly among countries, with systemic steroids, oral contraceptives, and antifungal drugs most commonly being used off label

Miriam C J M Sturkenboom, Katia M C Verhamme, Alfredo Nicolosi, Macey L Murray, Antje Neubert, Daan Caudri, Gino Picelli, Elif Fatma Sen, Carlo Giaquinto, Luigi Cantarutti, Paola Baiardi, Maria-Grazia Felisi, Adriana Ceci, Ian C K Wong, on behalf of the TEDDY European Network of Excellence

1341 Test, episode, and programme sensitivities of screening for colorectal cancer as a public health policy in Finland: experimental design

The public was split into a screening group of 53 000 adults aged 60–64 who received faecal occult blood test kits by mail and a control group who had usual care, and the sensitivity of the screening programme over about two years was 37.5%, detecting four in 10 cases of colorectal cancer

Nea Malila, Tiina Oivanen, Outi Malminiemi, Matti Hakama

» Editorial p 1314

CLINICAL REVIEW

1345 Melanoma—Part 2: management

Christina Thirlwell, Paul Nathan

PRACTICE

1349 Guidelines: Diagnosis and management of patients at risk of or with metastatic spinal cord compression: 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 highlight important recommendations for clinical practice, especially where uncertainty or controversy exists

B D White, A J Stirling, E Paterson, K Asquith-Coe, A Melder, on behalf of the Guideline Development Group

1351 Commentary: Controversies in NICE guidance on metastatic spinal cord compression

Robert Coleman

RESEARCH PUBLISHED ONLINE

Impact of a new national screening policy for Down's syndrome in Denmark: population based cohort study

BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.a2547

Charlotte K Ekelund, Finn Stener Jørgensen, Olav Bjørn Petersen, Karin Sundberg, Ann Tabor, Danish Fetal Medicine Research Group

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ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART HELEN HAMLYN CENTRE

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

After calls from the National Patient Safety Agency, a group of designers and doctors have devised a resuscitation trolley that might save lives. It alerts medics when equipment is old or missing, and it splits into three so that equipment can be used separately. The sections contain kit to clear an airway, to gain intravenous access, and to restart the heart. A prototype has been tested in several simulated scenarios, including at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London. The design has won two Medical Futures Innovation Awards.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

6% Proportion of patients discharged from psychiatric inpatient care readmitted for self harm within a year (Research, p 1331)

4000 People affected by metastatic spinal cord compression in the UK each year (Practice, p 1349)

750 000 Estimated number of Americans who travelled abroad for treatment in 2007 (Observations, p 1324)

1.7% Annual fall in tuberculosis rates from the mid-1800s to the first world war; when specific treatment was introduced in the 1950s yearly rates fell by over 10% (Letters, p 1309)

60 Times that social services and other agencies saw Baby P (News, p 1311)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“Pregnant women [should] reduce caffeine intake before conception and during pregnancy” (Research, p 1334)

“Primary melanoma is often difficult to diagnose, even for those with a specialist training” (Clinical Review, p 1345)

“If you can generate new cardiac cells and revascularise them you can rebuild the heart. It'll have major effects on the NHS” (Feature, p 1320)

“I had treated the patients as mere statistics in the quest to achieve better epidemiological health outcomes” (Personal View, p 1355)

“While care is often fantastic it is sometimes impersonal and lacks compassion” (News, p 1314)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Breaking the embargo

The breaking of media embargoes comes pretty high on the list of editors' pet hates. What's an embargo? It's the date and time before which we ask journalists to refrain from reporting something we are due to publish. We issue a press release a few days beforehand, and, because journalists benefit from a system that gives them all a fair run in preparing their story, breaches are rare.

Why am I raising this now? Because a study in this week's print journal—on the effects of caffeine in pregnancy (p 1334)—was reported in the press before we published it online (2 November *Sunday Times* and others). This report wasn't technically a breach of embargo because the press release hadn't yet been issued, but it was publicity before publication. The study's funder, the Food Standards Agency, had held a stakeholders meeting before we issued our embargoed press release. It was probably from this meeting that the study's findings, and the government's new guidelines on caffeine intake during pregnancy, were leaked.

Was any great harm done? Not obviously. The FSA had to cancel its press conference but the message put out by the media was largely correct. Why then do journals bother with embargoes, and with the associated efforts to put the fear of god into authors about not talking to the press before publication? It's not only to avoid being scooped by the media. Our responsibility is to doctors, patients, and the public. Apart from wanting to give journalists enough time and information to get the story right, we want readers to be able to check the research (which is open access) and any linked

commentary (p 1305) for themselves.

Authors rarely breach embargoes: they have too much at stake. More often, a breach occurs because of differences between the journal and the research funder, as happened last time at the *BMJ* (1996;313:307-8). In a blog (<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj>), Terrence Collis at the FSA shares his frustrations about journal peer review, with which I sympathise. "Waiting around for journals to decide whether they are going to publish is a real pain," he says. "Having less control of the timetable seems a high price to pay for the glory of prestigious publication even in the *BMJ*." At just under five weeks from submission to publication (some of that time used by the authors to make revisions), it's hard to see how we could have moved faster and still have done a proper job. Perhaps the FSA, with its responsibilities to consumers and with its own advisory committee to provide peer review, should dispense with journal publication, although Collis clearly appreciates the additional authority that journals give. "We should be able to work out between us how to get the best of both worlds," he says. For us this means fast and efficient peer review and close liaison with authors, funders, and journalists. It also means continuing to use embargoes, which we still think is the best way to serve doctors, patients, the public, journalists, and, yes, funders and journals too.

Fiona Godlee, editor, *BMJ* fgodlee@bmj.com

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To receive Editor's choice by email each week, visit bmj.com/cgi/customalert



STEPHEN WELLMAN/WELLCOME

ON THE COVER

Neural-like cells derived from mesenchymal stem cells

Features, p 1320

Analysis, p 1325

Articles appearing in this print journal have already been published on bmj.com, and the version in print may have been shortened.

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WHAT'S NEW AT THE BMJ GROUP

MMC — 2009 — all the information you need in one place

Make sure you read our 13 December issue for the *BMJ* Career Focus special feature on Specialty Training Applications careers.bmj.com

Student *BMJ* in December

Transgender health, the human ecosystem, and a qualitative study on sex workers student.bmj.com

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin (DTB) — December issue

Reviews on vaccination against human papillomavirus and annual zoledronic acid for osteoporosis dtb.bmj.com

Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry

Online archive now available right back to 1920, volume 1, issue 1 jnnp.bmj.com/aboutarchive

Time is running out to nominate for the *BMJ* Group Awards

The closing date is 19 December 2008, submit your nomination today group.bmj.com/awards



Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1358

WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

LATEST BLOGS



Consultant paediatrician Heather Payne warns of a “media orgy of blaming professionals” in the wake of the Baby P case, adding: “We need open discussion but not professional victimisation.” She concludes: “At the moment we just rake over the bones. Baby P and these nameless children deserve more.”

In response, Karen Mills says: “These so called professionals have not learned from their mistakes in the past why should we trust them with our most precious gift—children.”

Another commentator says: “There is no suggestion that the author has tried to shield a colleague from proper scrutiny but a

commendable concern that the doctor might already be the victim of journalists who in the past have maliciously defamed distinguished paediatricians so exposing them to the inept attention of the GMC whose action against one of them was described by the High Court as “bordering on the irrational.”

Join these debates and others at <http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/>

MOST READ

Statins and primary prevention of cardiovascular events

Diagnosis and management of headache in adults: summary of SIGN guideline

Melanoma: epidemiology, risk factors, and prevention

A case of severe hyponatraemia

Effect of fibre, antispasmodics, and peppermint oil in treating irritable bowel syndrome

LATEST RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

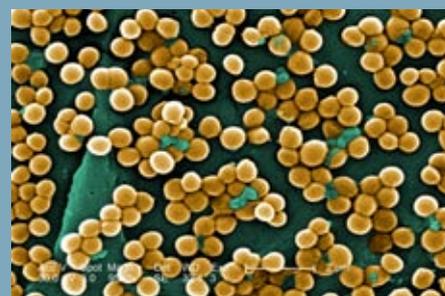
What impact did a national first trimester screening strategy for Down's syndrome have on the number of babies born with the condition in Denmark?

How common is hypersensitivity reaction to the quadrivalent HPV vaccine among females aged 12-26 in Victoria and South Australia?

To read these and other recent research papers, go to bmj.com/channels/research.dtl

Is the rush to get new drugs onto the market compromising patient safety, and could the system for reporting adverse reactions be improved?

To read this and other recent analysis articles, go to bmj.com/channels/comment.dtl



Last week's poll asked:
“Will financial penalties improve control of hospital acquired infections?”

You replied:

YES 118 votes **(42%)**

NO 161 votes **(58%)**

This week's poll asks:

Would you advise a friend or relative to become a doctor?

Let us know where you stand on this issue at www.bmj.com/#poll

MOST COMMENTED ON

Enabling women to breast feed

Statin induced myopathy

International regulation of alcohol

New malaria drugs need subsidy

Effect of social deprivation on blood pressure monitoring and control in England: survey of data from the quality and outcomes framework

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