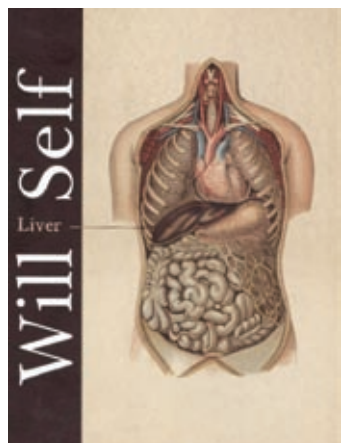




Allowing people to die at home, p 1253



Training to promote breast feeding, p 1255



Novelist Will Self gets liverish, p 1300



Global attitudes to homosexuality and HIV transmission, p 1262

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- 1245 Electrocardiography in suspected angina**
Poor at predicting future events but is still an essential part of assessment, says Beth Abramson
» [Research, p 1272](#)

- 1246 BCG vaccination in children**
Percutaneous administration is an alternative to the intradermal route, under certain conditions, say C Fordham von Reyn and Alimuddin I Zumla
» [Research, p 1275](#)

- 1247 Falls in older people**
Consider lowering the risk of injury as well as lowering the risk of a fall, says A John Campbell
» [Research, p 1279](#)

- 1248 International regulation of alcohol**
A framework convention is needed, as for tobacco control, say Robin Room, Laura Schmidt, Jürgen Rehm, and Pia Mäkelä

- 1249 Global research for health**
Should tackle health needs and inform policy, says Martin McKee

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1252 Controlling pain in cancer; Prescribing placebos

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- 1253 Generic substitution of drugs is set to be introduced in 2010**
Resources must be diverted to allow people to die at home
- 1254 UK government hopes to introduce new “fit note”**
HIV testing should rise in areas of high prevalence
Scotland sets six week target for diagnostic tests
- 1255 More staff training needed to promote breast feeding when babies leave neonatal care**
- 1256 Uninsured people get poor deal from organ donation in the US**
Doctors in South Dakota must warn women who seek abortion they are terminating human life
- 1257 First patient is given bioengineered bronchus transplant**
FDA opens offices in China to regulate exported drugs
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- 1259 Global forum recommends developing countries have greater say in setting research priorities**

SHORT CUTS

- 1260 What's new in the other general journals**

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- 1262 The invisible epidemic**
Lack of recognition of homosexuality in many countries is hampering efforts to reduce HIV transmission among men who have sex with men. Bob Roehr reports

- 1265 AIDS and the irrational**

The director of UNAIDS, Peter Piot, is stepping down in the next few weeks. In an open letter to his replacement, Helen Epstein argues that the agency should give the issue of concurrent partners high priority in combating HIV in Africa

OBSERVATIONS

YANKEE DOODLING

- 1268 Our perfectly designed US healthcare system**
Douglas Kamerow

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- 1269 Role of routines in collaborative work in healthcare organisations**
Work routines are often viewed negatively, but Trisha Greenhalgh reviews evidence showing that they can be the key to maintaining and improving quality of care

RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE

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Deborah Cohen
- 1299 The death of the author** Theodore Dalrymple

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- 1300 Liver** John Quin

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- 1301 Case report; Prize quiz; Picture quiz; Statistical question**

MINERVA

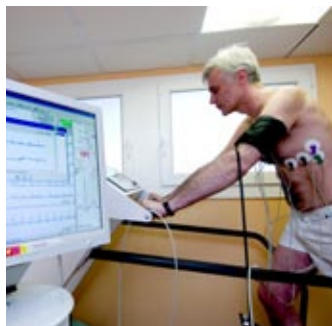
- 1302 Reducing the tax on alcoholic drinks in Finland, and other stories**

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- 1286 What types of article does the BMJ consider?**
1291 The peril of treating your progeny

“Say Dr No”, p 1251

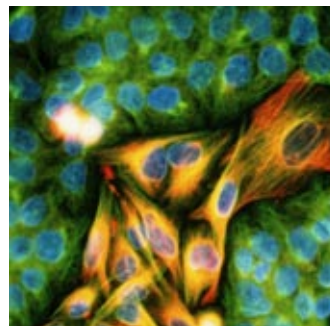




Value of exercise ECGs in patients with suspected angina, p 1272



Falling in people over 90, p 1279



Clinical Review: Melanoma, p 1287



Giving feedback in clinical settings, p 1292

RESEARCH

1272 Incremental prognostic value of the exercise electrocardiogram in the initial assessment of patients with suspected angina: cohort study

In patients seen at six rapid access chest pain clinics almost half of all coronary events during follow-up were in patients with negative exercise electrocardiograms, and routine history taking and examination provided almost as much predictive information

Neha Sekhri, Gene S Feder, Cornelia Junghans, Sandra Eldridge, Athavan Umaipalan, Rashmi Madhu, Harry Hemingway, Adam D Timmis

» Editorial p 1245

1275 Efficacy of percutaneous versus intradermal BCG in the prevention of tuberculosis in South African infants: randomised trial

Both types of injection were equally efficacious and safe in the first two years of life, shedding doubt on WHO's preference for the trickier intradermal injection over the multipuncture percutaneous approach

Anthony Hawkrige, Mark Hatherill, Francesca Little, Margaret Ann Goetz, Lew Barker, Hassan Mahomed, Jerald Sadoff, Willem Hanekom, Larry Geiter, Greg Hussey, the South African BCG trial team

» Editorial p 1246

1279 Inability to get up after falling, subsequent time on floor, and summoning help: prospective cohort study in people over 90

Being unable to get up was highly prevalent with 15% of falls leaving people lying for more than an hour, often despite access to call alarms: severe cognitive impairment was the only predictor of prolonged time on the floor

Jane Fleming, Carol Brayne, and the Cambridge City over-75s Cohort (CC75C) study collaboration

» Editorial p 1247

1283 Recruitment to multicentre trials—lessons from UKCTOCS: descriptive study

The UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening recruited more than 200 000 women in four years, thanks mainly to constant supervision, an interactive web based management system, and videos and group discussions for the women

Usha Menon, Aleksandra Gentry-Maharaj, Andy Ryan, Aarti Sharma, Matthew Burnell, Rachel Hallett, Sara Lewis, Alberto Lopez, Keith Godfrey, David Oram, Jonathan Herod, Karin Williamson, Mourad Seif, Ian Scott, Tim Mould, Robert Woolas, John Murdoch, Stephen Dobbs, Nazar Amso, Simon Leeson, Derek Cruickshank, Ali McGuire, Stuart Campbell, Lesley Fallowfield, Steve Skates, Mahesh Parmar, Ian Jacobs

CLINICAL REVIEW

1287 Melanoma—Part 1: epidemiology, risk factors, and prevention

Veronique Bataille, Esther de Vries

PRACTICE

1292 Teaching rounds: Giving feedback in clinical settings

Think about a clinical teaching session that you supervised recently. How much feedback did you provide? How useful do you think your feedback was?

Peter Cantillon, Joan Sargeant

RESEARCH PUBLISHED ONLINE

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

BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.a2261

Nea Malila, Tiina Oivanen, Outi Malminiemi, Matti Hakama

The Editor, BMJ

BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Email: editor@bmj.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4499

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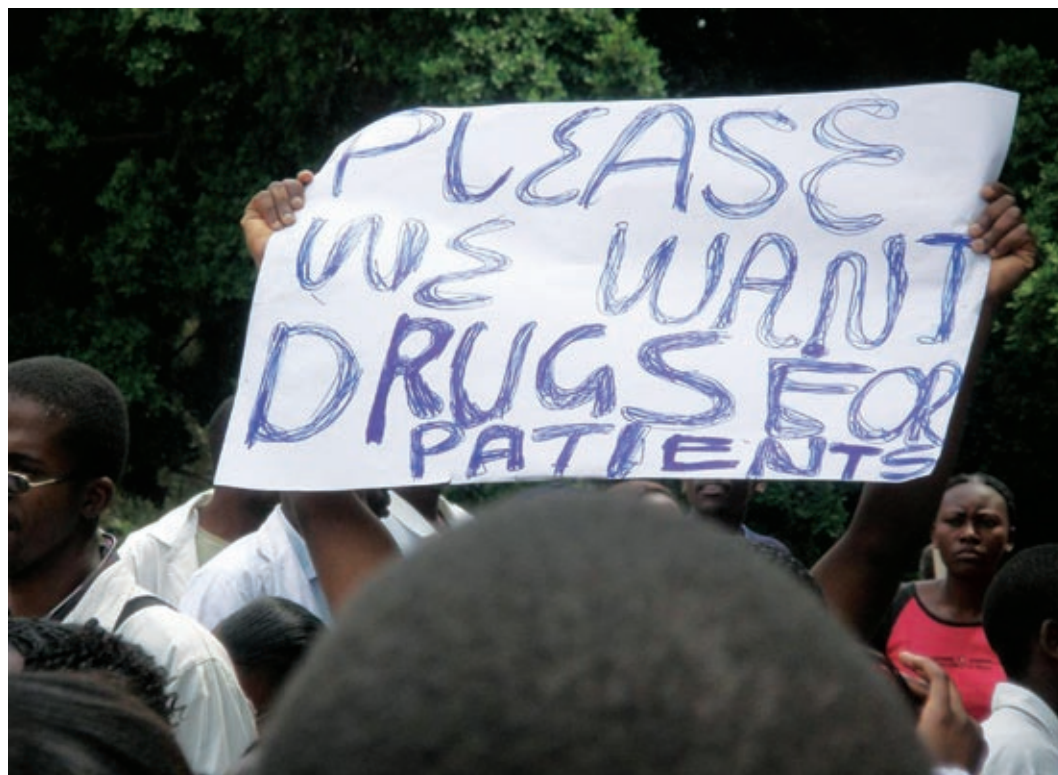
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ZADHR

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

As Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic spread, health workers at Harare Central and Parirenyatwa hospitals protested last week against the state of the public health system. After several hours, heavily armed riot police forcibly dispersed the demonstrators, assaulting several health workers in the process.

See News, p 1258

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

\$7bn Amount sought by the United Nations in its humanitarian appeal for 2009 (News, p 1258)

19 Number of times that, globally, men who have sex with men are more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population (Feature, p 1262)

206 000 Number of women recruited in four years to the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (Research, p 1283)

2.8% Increase in incidence of melanoma in white people in the United States between 1992 and 2005 (Clinical Review, p 1287)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

"The US healthcare system denies adequate care to many of the uninsured during life. Yet, in death, the uninsured often give strangers the ultimate gift" (News, p 1257)

"I didn't want to use the call alarm, although I was wearing it, for fear of being taken into hospital" (Research, p 1279)

"Properly handled, feedback enhances the teacher-learner relationship and leads to beneficial changes in learners' behaviour" (Practice, p 1292)

"The liver is an unjustly neglected source of literary inspiration" (Review of the Week, p 1300)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Where commerce and health collide



Editorial, p 1245
Research, p 1272

The WHO commission on the social determinants of health (the Marmot report) called for an international framework convention on alcohol like the 2005 framework for tobacco control. In this week's journal, Robin Room and colleagues add their weight and some detail to this call (p 1248). "Alcohol is the only strong psychoactive substance in common use that is not controlled internationally," they say in their editorial. A framework convention would put constraints on international trade in alcohol, particularly on cross border trafficking, and would encourage governments to implement evidence based policies.

There's no shortage of evidence that easy access to cheap alcohol fuels alcohol related diseases. Minerva unearths a new Finnish study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* (p 1302). In the two years after a substantial cut in the tax on alcoholic drinks, deaths from alcohol related diseases rose by 16% in men and 31% in women, with the highest impact among people who were unemployed and less privileged.

What there may be a shortage of is political will. Earlier this month, a UK parliamentary select committee called for legislation to end cheap alcohol promotions by supermarkets in an effort to reduce crime (*BMJ* 2008;337:a2499). Voluntary codes don't seem to be working. An international framework convention might give governments the courage they need for effective legislation.

This week we carry several responses to recent guidance on management of osteoporosis. Jon Tobias and colleagues add to a chorus of criticism of the guidelines from the National Institute for

Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), in particular the requirement "that patients identified at risk have to get worse" before being eligible for alternatives to alendronate (p 1251). They call instead for the adoption of guidance produced by the National Osteoporosis Society. But to add to an already complex picture, Lennart Veerman and Theo Vos (p 1251) remind readers that the society is partly funded by Servier, which is taking NICE to court about its osteoporosis guidance (*BMJ* 2008;337:a2397), as well as by other companies that produce osteoporosis drugs. "Certainly many of NICE's critics have a financial interest that may lead them to favour generous funding arrangements for osteoporosis drugs," they say in their letter.

Meanwhile the *BMJ* continues its focus on preventing falls in older people, which must go hand in hand with appropriate prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. Earlier this year Järvinen and colleagues concluded that falls, not osteoporosis, were the main factor for fractures in elderly people (*BMJ* 2008;336:124-6). Now a new study by Fleming and colleagues (p 1279) finds that a high proportion of elderly people who fell were unable to get up again. A third of them lay on the floor for an hour or longer, greatly increasing their need for hospital admission and long term care. In his linked editorial (p 1247), John Campbell lists a range of measures to consider, but concludes that real progress in understanding the needs of this vulnerable group will only come from collaboration between health professionals and the commercial sector.

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

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a2751

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Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1300

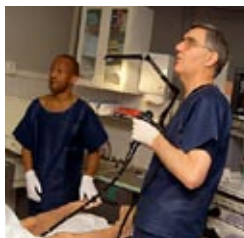
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LATEST RESEARCH

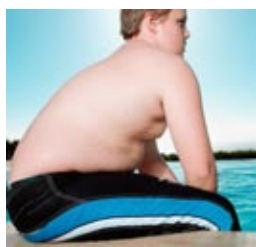
Test, episode, and programme sensitivities of screening for colorectal cancer as a public health policy in Finland: experimental design

Although relatively low, the sensitivity of screening for colorectal cancer with the faecal occult blood test was adequate: 55% of cancers were detected in the preclinical phase and 38% in the total target population in this Finnish study. An accompanying editorial says that screening should be tailored to available resources, local experience, and population characteristics.

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



LATEST COMMENT



People wasting billions of pounds on “quack” health food products

Every year, obese people waste billions of pounds on weight loss products that are totally ineffective, says Michael E J Lean, professor of human nutrition at the University of Glasgow. He hopes that a new European Union Directive on Unfair Commercial Practices will finally protect vulnerable consumers who are tricked into buying useless food products or supplements in attempts to combat their disease.

Trading regulations and health foods http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/337/nov25_2/a2408

LATEST BLOGS

The Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health met in Mali's capital Bamako last week. As *BMJ* editor Fiona Godlee describes in her blog, its aim was to come up with a call for action to strengthen research for health in developing countries. Dodging the traffic on Bamako's hectic streets was almost as difficult as dodging the health policy jargon in the conference hall, she says. And she is sceptical about the outcome of the conference: “Carel Ijsselmuiden, director of the Council on Health Research for Development ... expresses the hope that by the next ministerial summit in 2012, the discussion will no longer be about research for the world's poorest nations but research by them for themselves. But sadly among delegates rushing to catch an Air France flight home, it seems all too possible that four years from now we will be having the same conversations.”

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



Last week's poll asked:
“Should restaurant menus include nutrition labelling information?”

You replied:

YES 480 votes **(69%)**

NO 217 votes **(31%)**

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

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

MOST COMMENTED ON

Enabling women to breast feed

Statins and primary prevention of cardiovascular events

Doctors' health matters

Statin induced myopathy

Doctors' health

MOST READ

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

Statins and primary prevention of cardiovascular events

Statin induced myopathy

German health care: a bit of Bismarck plus more science

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