



The health cost of cheaper alcohol, p 535



National qualifying exams: a fair way to rank medical students? p 546



Continuity of care, p 548



Claude Bernard's medical classic, p 581

EDITORIALS

- 525 Using aspirin to prevent cognitive decline**
Is not effective in asymptomatic middle aged to elderly adults, say John W Eikelboom and Martin O'Donnell
» [Research, p 554](#)
- 526 Direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs**
Even attenuated forms such as cross border advertising can lead to unnecessary harm, says Barbara Mintzes
» [Research, p 557](#)
- 527 State violence towards sex workers**
Police power should be reduced and sex workers' autonomy and status raised, says Belinda Brooks-Gordon
» [Research, p 560](#)
- 528 Bariatric surgery**
Can reduce weight and improve long term survival, but carries risks, says David Arterburn
- 529 Tackling health inequities**
WHO calls for global action to ensure health equity within and between countries, say George Davey Smith and Nancy Krieger

LETTERS

- 531 Eye donation; Drug prices; Hypercholesterolaemia**
- 532 Hormone replacement therapy; Unusual case of hyperhidrosis; Acting as an expert witness; Medical error**

NEWS

- 533 Bias could account for benefit attributed to flu vaccination**
European paediatric trials miss priority needs
- 534 Traditional hip and knee replacement are less likely to need revision**
Low cost intervention helps to reduce suicide rate in poorer countries, study shows
- 535 Cutting price in alcohol leads to higher mortality**
Doctors issue warning that OTC antibiotics will increase resistance
- 536 Deaths from drug poisoning in English and Welsh men increase**
Refused asylum seekers can get free NHS care
New vaccines and screening can reduce cervical cancer rate in poor countries
- 537 Charity calls for better training of police in handling mentally ill people**
German insurance companies agree to doctors' pay rise
- 538 US proposal protects healthcare workers objecting to abortion**
Case suggests peanut allergy may be passed on by transplant
NICE introduces cost sharing scheme for blindness drug
- 539 Two doses of chickenpox vaccine needed**

SHORT CUTS

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

FEATURE

- 542 Outsourced radiology: will doctors be deskilled?**
Outsourcing of radiology has boomed in recent years, but how well does it work? Amy Davis reports

OBSERVATIONS

WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

- 544 Blogs; most read last week; recent bmj.com polls**
YANKEE DOODLING
- 545 Jabbering about jabs** Douglas Kamerow

HEAD TO HEAD

- 546 Are national qualifying examinations a fair way to rank medical students?**
Chris Ricketts and Julian Archer say yes; Ian Noble says no

ANALYSIS

- 548 Continuity of care matters**
The current focus on increasing access makes it more difficult for patients to see the same doctor. But Bruce Guthrie and colleagues argue that relationships between doctors and patients are central to good care

RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE

See next page

OBITUARIES

- 577 Alexei Mikhailovich Svetukhin; Eric Reeves Carter; Kenneth Arthur Day; Allan Watson Downie; James Ronald Harries; John Anthony Guy Horton; Esmée Dorothy Martin**

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

PERSONAL VIEW

- 579 Are we all Balintians now?** Jeremy Holmes

COLUMNISTS

- 580 The tablets of stone** Des Spence
The four Ss Trisha Greenhalgh
- 581 A world not his own** Theodore Dalrymple

MEDICAL CLASSICS

- 581 Morceaux Choisis** John Black

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

- 582 Dropsy, Dialysis, Transplant** Damien Fogarty

ENDGAMES

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

MINERVA

- 584 Yellow nail syndrome, and other stories**

FILLERS

- 563 What types of article does the BMJ consider?**
576 Occluded circulation

Peanut allergy may be transferred by transplant, p 538

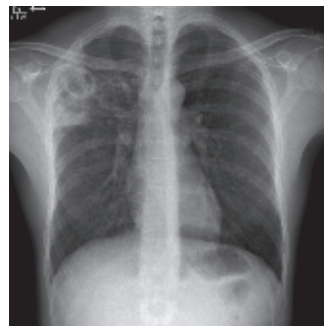




Quality of life after combined hormone replacement therapy, p 550



Police violence and sexual risk among sex workers in Serbia, p 560



Drug resistant tuberculosis, p 564



Preventing new foot ulcers in people with diabetes, p 575

RESEARCH

550 Health related quality of life after combined hormone replacement therapy: randomised controlled trial

In this primary care trial combined HRT started many years after menopause improved sleep, prevalence of aches and pains, and sexual functioning in women with and without classic vasomotor symptoms

Amanda J Welton, Madge R Vickers, Joseph Kim, Deborah Ford, Beverley A Lawton, Alastair H MacLennan, Sarah K Meredith, Jeannett Martin, Tom W Meade, for the WISDOM team

554 Low dose aspirin and cognitive function in middle aged to elderly adults: randomised controlled trial

Low dose aspirin daily for five years produced no cognitive benefit in men and women aged over 50 without dementia and at moderately increased risk of cardiovascular disease

Jackie F Price, Marlene C Stewart, Ian J Deary, Gordon D Murray, Peter Sandercock, Isabella Butcher, F Gerald R Fowkes, on behalf of the AAA Trialists

» Editorial p 525

557 Effect of illicit direct to consumer advertising on use of etanercept, mometasone, and tegaserod in Canada: controlled longitudinal study

Exposure to US direct to consumer advertising was associated with transiently increased prescribing of tegaserod in the US and across the border in Canada, where such advertising is illegal

Michael R Law, Sumit R Majumdar, Stephen B Soumerai

» Editorial p 526

560 Police violence and sexual risk among female and transvestite sex workers in Serbia: qualitative study

Sex workers' accounts reported the need for greater protection from police violence and corruption, and for creating safer and regulated off-street environments for sex work

Tim Rhodes, Milena Simić, Sladjana Baroš, Lucy Platt, Bojan Žikić

» Editorial p 527

CLINICAL REVIEW

564 Managing drug resistant tuberculosis

Alison Grant, Philip Gothard, Guy Thwaites

PRACTICE

570 Qualitative research: Discourse analysis

This article explores how discourse analysis is useful for a wide range of research questions in health care and the health professions

Brian David Hodges, Ayelet Kuper, Scott Reeves

573 Lesson of the week: Extensive transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from 9 year old child with pulmonary tuberculosis and negative sputum smear

A negative sputum smear does not exclude substantial risk of infection from patients with pulmonary tuberculosis

S Paranjothy, M Eisenhut, M Lilley, S Bracebridge, I Abubakar, R Mulla, K Lack, D Chalkley, J Howard, S Thomas, M McEvoy

575 Uncertainties page: How can we best prevent new foot ulcers in people with diabetes?

This is a series of occasional articles that highlights areas of practice where management lacks convincing supporting evidence

Fay Crawford

RESEARCH ONLINE

Effect on birth outcomes of a formalised approach to care in hospital labour assessment units: international, randomised controlled trial

BMJ, doi: 10.1136/bmj.a1021

Ellen D Hodnett, Robyn Stremmler, Andrew R Willan, Julie A Weston, Nancy K Lowe, Kathleen R Simpson, William D Fraser, Amiram Gafni, the SELAN (Structured Early Labour Assessment and Care by Nurses) Trial Group



Christmas 2008: Deadline for submissions

Please submit your articles for consideration for this year's Christmas issue by 19 September.

Go to <http://submit.bmj.com> for more details about online submission. And remember to mention in your covering letter that your article is intended for Christmas (it's not always obvious).

No spoofs, please.

BMJ

6 September 2008 Vol 337

The Editor, BMJ

BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Email: editor@bmj.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4499

Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 6418

BMA MEMBERS' INQUIRIES

Email: membership@bma.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

BMJ CAREERS ADVERTISING

Email: sales@bmjcareers.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6531

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Email: sales@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6350

REPRINTS

UK/Rest of world

Email: ngurneyrandall@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 8445 5825

USA

Email: mfogler@medicalreprints.com

Tel: +1 (856) 489 4446

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BMA Members

Email: membership@bma.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

Non-BMA Members

Email: subscriptions@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6270

OTHER RESOURCES

For all other contacts:

resources.bmj.com/bmj/contact-us

For advice to authors:

resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors

To submit an article:

submit.bmj.com

BMJ Group

The BMJ is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association.

The BMA grants editorial freedom to the Editor of the BMJ. The views expressed in the journal are those of the authors and may not necessarily comply with BMA policy. The BMJ follows guidelines on editorial independence produced by the World Association of Medical Editors (www.wame.org/wamestmt.htm#independence) and the code on good publication practice produced by the Committee on Publication Ethics (www.publicationethics.org.uk/guidelines/).

The BMJ is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied. Statements in the journal are the responsibility of their authors and advertisers and not authors' institutions, the BMJ Publishing Group, or the BMA unless otherwise specified or determined by law. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the BMJ Publishing Group shall not be liable for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from the use of the BMJ or any information in it whether based on contract, tort, or otherwise. Readers are advised to verify any information they choose to rely on.

©BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2008

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any other means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission, in writing, of the BMJ

Published weekly. US periodicals class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to BMJ, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. \$796. Weekly
Printed by Precision Colour Printing Limited



DIPENDU DUTTA/AFRGETTY IMAGES

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Indian medical personnel supply free medicine to flood affected families inside a school in Poornia district, some 400 km north east of Patna on 1 September 2008. Survivors of floods in northeast India said the rescue operation was failing, accusing the government of abandoning those still stranded in remote villages.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

54 to 82 years Range of life expectancy in men between the poorest and most affluent parts of Glasgow (Editorial p 529)

2640 Number of deaths from drug poisoning in English and Welsh men and women in 2007 (News p 536)

\$194m to \$314m Range of spending on direct to consumer advertising for study drugs from January 2002 to December 2006 (Research p 557)

7.7% Proportion of all tuberculosis cases in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in 2006 that had some degree of drug resistance (Clinical Review p 564)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“We should be cautious about collateral damage in the ‘war on cholesterol’” (Letter p 531)

“One dose of [varicella] vaccine did not generate enough herd immunity to prevent the transmission of the virus” (News p 539)

“The biggest obstacle is not having free access to old scans, blood tests, past medical history, and discharge summaries” (Feature p 542)

“And at the end of the job he shows me his badge, and says like ‘Give me my money back now.’” (Research p 560)

“Discourse analysis is about studying and analysing the uses of language” (Practice p 570)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

In search of equity



Clinical review, p 564
Practice, p 573

It's almost 30 years since the Black report on inequalities in health in England and Wales, commissioned in 1977 by a Labour government but given a cold reception in 1980 by their Conservative successors. In contrast, we have good reason to hope that WHO will embrace Michael Marmot's far more ambitious global report, commissioned by its former director general, Lee Jong-wook, and delivered to his successor Margaret Chan in Geneva last week.

George Davey Smith has been critical in the past of such reports. His *BMJ* editorial, with colleagues, about the 1998 Acheson report on health inequalities was less than favourable (www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/317/7171/1465). This time around his, and Nancy Krieger's, praise is fulsome (p 529). At last, they write, an official report has the honesty and courage to say that social injustice is killing people on a grand scale. The real test, though, will be in what happens next. The report's scope is enormous, covering a wide range of social determinants of health and diverse local circumstances around the world. Each country will need its own strategy for implementation, and any success will depend on government departments—health, education, employment, urban planning—working across their entrenched silos.

Bids for equity appear elsewhere in this week's *BMJ*. Direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs turns out to cause disproportionate harm to women, says Barbara Mintzes in her editorial (p 526). Campaigners in Canada are using this inequity—partly explained by women's greater use of prescription drugs—to bolster the country's consumer advertising ban, which is under assault from media groups as well as cross

border advertising from the United States. In their longitudinal study, Michael Law and colleagues found that US television advertisements viewed in Canada caused a rise in prescriptions for tegaserod, a treatment for irritable bowel syndrome that was later withdrawn because of safety concerns (p 557).

Another call for equity comes in this week's head to head debate, which asks whether a national qualifying exam would be a fair way to rank medical students. Chris Ricketts and Julian Archer (p 546) argue that the UK's current system of leaving it to individual medical schools is unfair. They call for more standardisation and a national curriculum to allow comparisons between medical schools. They also think this will improve patient care. Ian Noble (p 547) is not convinced. A national exam would, he says, damage diversity and innovation in medical education, would be hard to implement, and would emphasise knowledge over performance.

Knowledge alone is clearly not sufficient in making good doctors, but it is necessary. You can test your knowledge in our new educational clinical quiz, *Endgames* (p 583). Compiled from peer reviewed contributions from readers, it will cover clinical medicine and statistics. Short and long answers are available on bmj.com. There's also a prize quiz, chosen from the *BMJ*'s sister product, *OnExamination* (www.onexamination.com). We hope you'll find it educational and entertaining.

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

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a1554

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

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

bmj.com also contains material that is supplementary to articles: this will be indicated in the text (references are given as w1, w2, etc) and be labelled as extra on bmj.com

Please cite all articles by year, volume, and elocator (rather than page number), eg *BMJ* 2008;337:a145. A note on how to cite each article appears at the end of each article, and this is the form the reference will take in PubMed and other indexes.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE BMJ GROUP

Register with BMJ Group

Receive the latest information and updates.
group.bmj.com/registration

Register for free entry to the BMJ Careers Fairs

Meet up to 70 exhibitors in London, and 40 in Birmingham. Exhibition entry is free. Attend as many seminars as you want over the two days for £85.
3-4 October London, 10-11 October Birmingham
<http://www.bmjcareersfair.com>

Archives of Disease in Childhood - second podcast now live

A discussion of the findings of the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health can be heard at <http://podcasts.bmj.com/journal-adc/>

Alcohol misuse, cataract, and HIV infection

These systematic reviews and others from *BMJ Clinical Evidence* are now updated, including GRADE evaluation of the evidence.
clinicalevidence.bmj.com



PLUS

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 582.