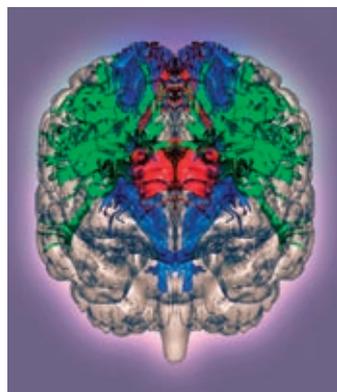




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- 1022 At what age should cervical screening stop?**
Negative tests are no reason to stop screening earlier, says Björn Strander
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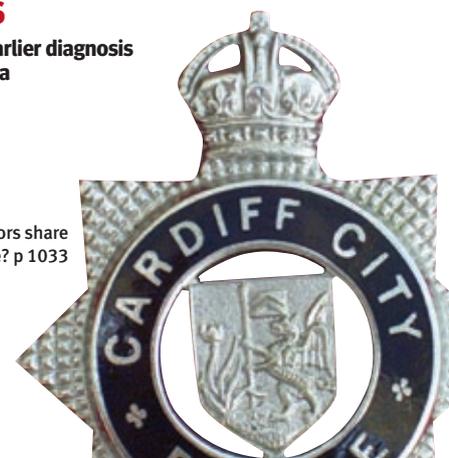
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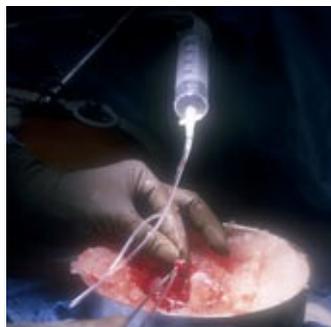
- 1078 Towards earlier diagnosis of dementia**

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RESEARCH

1047 Larval therapy for leg ulcers (VenUS II): randomised controlled trial

In 267 patients with at least one sloughy ulcer maggots significantly speeded debridement, but they increased pain and did not improve the healing rate or reduce the bacterial load

Jo C Dumville, Gill Worthy, J Martin Bland, Nicky Cullum, Christopher Dowson, Cynthia Iglesias, Joanne L Mitchell, E Andrea Nelson, Marta O Soares, David J Torgerson, on behalf of the VenUS II team

» Editorial, p 1027

1050 Cost effectiveness analysis of larval therapy for leg ulcers

Debridement of sloughy or necrotic ulcers with maggots probably has similar health benefits and costs to treatment with hydrogel

Marta O Soares, Cynthia P Iglesias, J Martin Bland, Nicky Cullum, Jo C Dumville, E Andrea Nelson, David J Torgerson, Gill Worthy, on behalf of the VenUS II team

» Editorial, p 1027

1054 Four layer bandage compared with short stretch bandage for venous leg ulcers: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials with data from individual patients

In seven trials with more than 800 patients with ulcers, the chance of healing after four layer bandaging was 30% higher than after short stretch bandaging, even when other prognostic factors were taken into account

Susan O'Meara, Jayne Tierney, Nicky Cullum, J Martin Bland, Peter J Franks, Trevor Mole, Mark Scriven

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1058 Incidence of cervical cancer after several negative smear results by age 50: prospective observational study

In this Dutch national study the risk of cancer after several negative smears by age 50 was similar to that at younger ages, hence age was not a good discriminator for cessation of screening

Matejka Rebolj, Marjolein van Ballegooijen, Elsebeth Lynge, Caspar Looman, Marie-Louise Essink-Bot, Rob Boer, Dik Habbema

» Editorial, p 1028

1061 Modifiable factors influencing relatives' decision to offer organ donation: systematic review

Consent is more likely to be given when it's sought separately from the breaking of the bad news, by a skilled team member

Arabella L Simpkin, Laura C Robertson, Vicki S Barber, J Duncan Young

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CLINICAL REVIEW

1064 Cardiac resynchronisation therapy for chronic heart failure

Richard M Cubbon, Klaus K A Witte

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1070 Rational testing: Investigating hirsutism

When should we test for clinical hyperandrogenism and what are the best tests?

T Sathyapalan, Stephen L Atkin

1072 Practice pointer: "I need a note, doctor": dealing with requests for medical reports about patients

Most doctors will have experienced the sinking feeling that denotes an impending ethical dilemma when faced with a request for a medical report or certificate

Peter D Toon

1076 Drug point: Topiramate can induce hypoadrenalism in patients taking oral corticosteroid replacement

K Jacob, P J Trainer

1077 Lesson of the week: Diabetic ketoacidosis caused by exposure of insulin pump to heat and sunlight

Patients with diabetes need to know how to store insulin

R Pryce

£1000 REWARD

To mark the online availability of every *BMJ* article published since the first issue in October 1840 we're offering a prize for the most interesting use of the journal's archive. The use should be actual, not hypothetical.



Entrants should state in their submission that they have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the competition, set out at bmj.com/cgi/doi/10.1136/bmj.b1770

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Send it via submit.bmj.com, choosing "Competition" as the article type.

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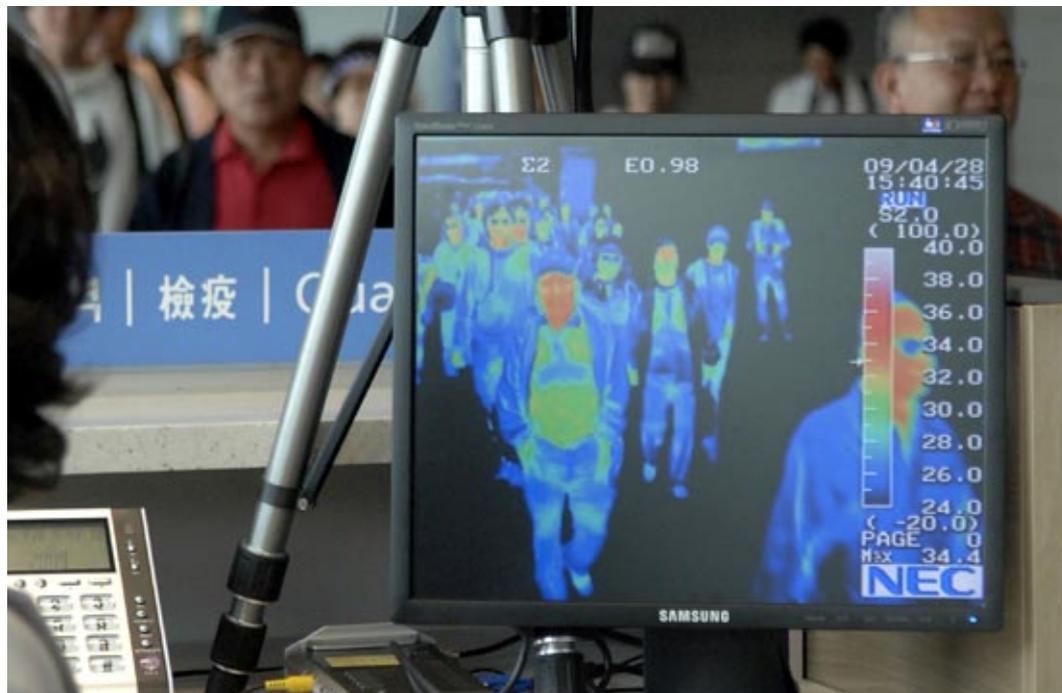
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POOL/GETTY IMAGES

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A thermal scanner at Incheon International Airport in South Korea detects the body temperature of passengers arriving from an international flight in order to identify individuals with a fever who could possibly be infected with swine flu. The swine influenza virus is thought to be responsible for more than 150 deaths in Mexico, and cases have been confirmed as far afield as New Zealand, Canada, and the UK

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

£96.70 Increase in cost with larval therapy compared with hydrogel for patients with leg ulcers (Research, p 1050)

3000 Number of babies in England who die per year before reaching one year of age (News, p 1036)

60-70% Proportion of patients with chronic heart failure and left bundle branch block who improve after biventricular pacing (Clinical Review, p 1064)

10-20 million Worldwide prevalence of people with Chagas disease (Analysis, p 1044)

824 183 Number of pages digitally scanned to create the new BMJ online archive (Editorial, p 1025)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“The risk of cervical cancer after several negative smear results by age 50 is similar to the risk at younger ages” (Research, p 1058)

“High temperatures and exposure to light increase the degradation of insulin” (Practice, p 1077)

“Marketing masquerading as medical research fundamentally undermines scientific integrity” (News, p 1035)

“The old anatomists could only infer the function of nervous tissue. With scanning technology researchers are able to see what’s going on as it happens” (Feature, p 1040)

“Governments across the globe must act now to develop a worldwide treaty on alcohol” (Personal view, p 1080)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Effectiveness, efficiency, and leadership



Editorial, p 1021

Research, pp 1047, 1050, 1054

After years of investment to bring the NHS into line with the European Union average for healthcare funding, the money is drying up. That's hardly surprising, given the global financial crisis and the UK's national debt. But what will it mean for patients, doctors, and other healthcare workers? Between four and 10 years of austerity, according to Chris Ham (p 1030), and Nicholas Timmins (p 1032), as they review the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent budget statement and its implications for the NHS.

Chris Ham likens the coming funding freeze to bereavement and warns against magical thinking. He means that politicians shouldn't depend on the private sector for salvation, and that NHS organisations should overcome their fright and quickly engage doctors in making changes that save money and improve outcomes. Doctors, meanwhile, should become better leaders, raise quality, and help to reduce wasteful and unfair variations in practice.

Good timing, then, for the *BMJ*/King's Fund debate on 28 April on doctors as leaders. Alan Maynard proposed the motion that "This House believes doctors are neglecting their duty to lead health service change" and exhorted doctors to take the NHS into "the EBM Promised Land advocated by Archie Cochrane and other significant leaders" (*BMJ* 2009;338:b1578). Cochrane, of course, was one of the founders of British epidemiology and author of the seminal book *Effectiveness and Efficiency: Random Reflections on Health Services* (London: Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 1972). Unlike the healthcare trials he called for, his reflections were far from random. More than 30 years on, Paul Glasziou is still arguing for the same thing—that, as most good

ideas don't work, there should be no new initiatives without piloting and external evaluation (p 1042).

Paul was responding to Tony Delamothe, who got in well before the budget to propose 10 relatively painless cuts that the NHS could make while maintaining focus on patient care (*BMJ* 2009;338:b1457). Actually, there were nine because the 10th slot was left blank for readers' proposals. Most responders agreed with Tony's suggestions, particularly those to cut the drug budget and to call off reorganising—or redisorganising—anything for the next five years. Christopher Burns-Cox added that the maximum salary for all staff should be £150 000, or five times that of the lowest paid in the service: "if people will not work for this amount they are not the sort of people we need in the NHS" (p 1042).

You may be feeling depressed after reading all this. We hope you might take heart from (and perhaps refuge in) the *BMJ*'s online archive, which now goes back to the journal's birth in 1840 (p 1031). It's an extraordinary record of medical ideas, evaluations, achievements, and individuals. We're justly proud of it and hugely grateful to the US National Library of Medicine and the UK's Wellcome Trust and Joint Information Systems Committee who made it happen. It's yours, however, as much as it is ours, and we want you to use it. To spur you on we're running a competition for articles reporting the best use of the archive, and will publish the winning article in this year's Christmas *BMJ* (terms and conditions at www.bmj.com/cgi/doi/10.1136/bmj.b1770).

Trish Groves, deputy editor, *BMJ*
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PLUS

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1084.

WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

LATEST RESEARCH**Participation in life situations of 8-12 year old children with cerebral palsy**

Participation should be assessed in clinical practice to guide intervention and assess its effect, and pain should be carefully assessed, says this cross sectional study. An accompanying editorial says if clinical thinking beyond the biomedical dimensions of diseases can be broadened to include participation, we may help improve the quality of life and long term wellbeing of disabled children and young people.

Meeting information needs of patients with incurable progressive disease and their families in South Africa and Uganda

Lack of information was a major theme for both patients and carers, who had important unanswered questions relating to living with a progressive incurable disease, according to this qualitative study. Evidence based recommendations for clinicians are presented, including the proactive provision of information tailored to individual patients and families.

Find all recent research articles at <http://www.bmj.com/channels/research.dtl>



CECILIA MAGILL/SPL

LATEST PODCASTS

In last week's podcast, Birte Twisselmann talks to Lucy Selman, a researcher at Kings College London, to find out about the state of palliative care in Uganda and South Africa. Intensive care consultant Duncan Young explains how doctors can help raise organ donation rates, and Trevor Jackson takes us through the news. This week we will be discussing financial incentives for health and the BMJ/King's Fund Debate on medical leadership.

Listen to these and other podcasts at <http://podcasts.bmj.com/bmj/>



GETTY IMAGES

LATEST BLOGS

Guest blogger Jane Parry lives in Hong Kong and has acute memories of flu alerts in the region. She is stocking up on Tamiflu but will not go near a hospital: "Hong Kongers have lived through more than their fair share of bird flu scares across the border in China over the last few years, and, of course, Sars in 2003 when 299 people in the city died of the disease. Then there was the cull of Hong Kong's entire poultry population back in 1997. It's not surprising then that 7 million residents of this crowded city are a little twitchy about pandemic flu threats."

Richard Lehman ponders continuity of care, hibernating myocardium, and whether gluten free bread came before gluten free pasta—or the other way round. And Joe Collier reflects on being bald for most of his adult life, only to find that medication has unexpectedly given him new hair: "I have toyed with the idea of having the new hair shaved off so that I can revert to my easily recognisable former self, but this would mean a level of deceit and that is not my style."

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

LATEST VIDEOS

The new *BMJ* online archive is now available, which means that a single search can find any article published in the *BMJ* since 1840, writes Tony Delamothe in an editorial on p 1031. For an introduction to the archive, over the coming weeks we will be featuring a series of specially commissioned videos, the first of which is now live. This week's clinical review on cardiac resynchronisation therapy in chronic heart failure on p 1064 also features three teaching video clips.

Watch these and other *BMJ* videos at <http://www.bmj.com/video/>

MOST COMMENTED ON

Tight control of blood glucose in long standing type 2 diabetes

Modifiable factors influencing relatives' decision to offer organ donation: systematic review

"I want to see the consultant"

Why the Pope may be right

What to cut

MOST READ

Tight control of blood glucose in long standing type 2 diabetes

Clopidogrel in acute coronary syndromes

China's excess males, sex selective abortion, and one child policy

Emergency and early management of burns and scalds

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