

EDITORIALS

- 1147 Reduced serum vitamin B-12 in patients taking metformin**
Until the clinical importance is clear, simple dietary advice could solve the problem, say Josep Vidal-Alaball and Christopher C Butler
» *Research, p 1177*
- 1148 Diagnosing diabetes using glycated haemoglobin A1c**
Could have several advantages over traditional diagnostic methods, says Wenying Yang
» *Research, p 1178*
- 1149 HIV transmission in serodiscordant heterosexual couples**
Risk is not zero but is low if the infected partner takes antiretrovirals, say Marie-Claude Boily and colleagues
» *Research, p 1179*
- 1150 Wellbeing in the workplace**
Lack of precise measurement or recommendations should not deter employers from taking action, say Michael F Roizen and Keith W Roach
- 1151 Acupuncture transmitted infections**
Are underdiagnosed, so clinicians should have a high index of suspicion, say Patrick CY Woo and colleagues

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Richard Weiler and colleagues argue that losing weight is not essential to get benefit from physical activity, but Timothy Gill and colleagues disagree

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- 1177 Long term treatment with metformin in patients with type 2 diabetes and risk of vitamin B-12 deficiency: randomised placebo controlled trial**
Jolien de Jager, Adriaan Kooy, Philippe Lehert, Michiel G Wulfel , Jan van der Kolk, Dani l Bets, Joop Verburg, Ab J M Donker, Coen D A Stehouwer
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- 1178 Glycated haemoglobin A1c for diagnosing diabetes in Chinese population: cross sectional epidemiological survey**
Yuqian Bao, Xiaojing Ma, Huating Li, Mi Zhou, Cheng Hu, Haiya Wu, Junling Tang, Xuhong Hou, Kunsan Xiang, Weiping Jia
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- 1179 Combined antiretroviral treatment and heterosexual transmission of HIV-1: cross sectional and prospective cohort study**
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Practice, pp 1190 and 1192



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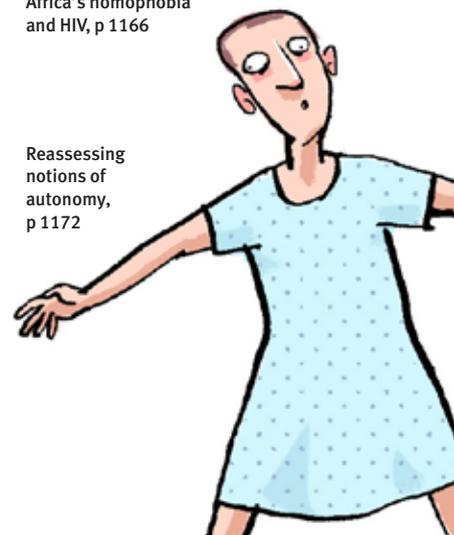


Questions about Tamiflu marketing, p 1159



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1198 **William Jonathan Abel; Mary Richmond Ellis; David Landsborough; Andrew Alexander Matchett; Kenneth Fletcher Malcolm Thomson; David Hughes Vaughan**

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1202 **Talking about a revolution: directives on death**
 Des Spence
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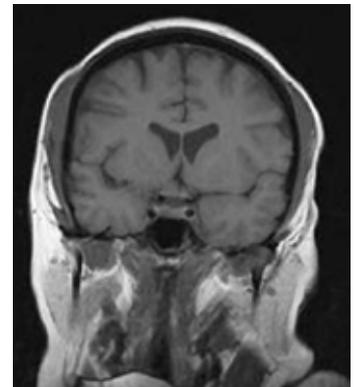
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Bariatric surgery in pregnancy, p 1180



Marlon Brando, a medical classic, p 1201

Too much information and not enough time?

BMJ Masterclasses

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The Editor, BMJ

**BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR**

Email: editor@bmj.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4410
Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 6418

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CLAIRE NGOZO/IPS

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Malawians Tiwonge Chimbanga (left) and Steven Monjeza have been sentenced to the maximum 14 years with hard labour for alleged homosexuality. A rise in homophobia and potential new laws in Africa could hamper the fight against HIV and have attracted condemnation from funders and politicians worldwide.

See **FEATURE**, p 1166

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

19% Mean decrease of vitamin B-12 associated with metformin treatment, compared with placebo (**Research**, p 1177)

27 years Mean age of onset of seasonal affective disorder (**Clinical Review**, p 1185)

1 in 17 000 Chance of developing biliary atresia (**Practice**, p 1192)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

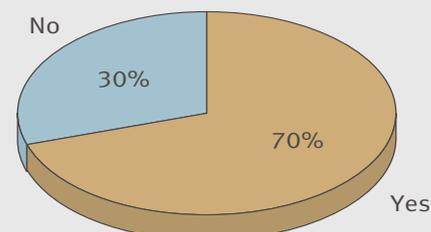
“If... the paper's peer reviewers had required not merely the assertion that the study had ethical approval, but a copy of the protocol and the patient information sheet that had been approved, that paper would never have been published”

Evan Harris, former MP, on the possible effect of ethical peer review on Andrew Wakefield's since retracted 1998 paper on MMR (**Observations**, p 1169)

BMJ.COM POLL

Recently we asked: “Should the world follow Australia and introduce plain packets for cigarettes?” (Total votes cast 352.)

Cast your vote in this week's poll on bmj.com



EDITOR'S CHOICE

The iPad cometh

Up until now we've had to make do with occasional glimpses of the one in our technology department, which they let us play with if we wash our hands first

Hallelujah, the iPad is among us. Eight weeks after its launch in the US, the iPad is available in nine other countries including the UK. And we've even got one in the *BMJ*'s office, although we didn't buy it—a colleague won it at a conference. Up until now we've had to make do with occasional glimpses of the one in our technology department, which they let us play with if we wash our hands first.

If you haven't seen one, it is a thing of beauty: the size, the colour and depth of the images, the tactile screen. I should say straight away that I have no shares in Apple and don't have an iPhone. But I defy anyone to open the periodic table on the iPad and not coo with delight at the revolving 3D icons.

Whether people will coo with similar delight when they try to read a magazine on the iPad is another matter. Some reviewers have been harsh about the reading experience, the need to scroll, the clunky navigation, the mindless use of pictures. Because of this, and despite the well orchestrated hype from Apple, the response from publishers has been cautious. While some—such as the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*—have moved straight in with their versions, many more are holding back to see what the early movers do and how users decide to interact with this new beast.

As for the *BMJ*, we have decided to take a middle route. Although we won't be out there for this week's global launch, we hope to be available on the iPad by the summer. This will give us time to

do more than simply replicate either the website or the print journal.

And this is the joy of the iPad, as many people have said before me (not all of them paid by Apple)—that it has the potential to combine the best of print and online. For the *BMJ* this means being able to present a weekly bundle of content—which many of you say is more manageable than the continuous flow of content on the web—but with immediate links through to our daily updates and the archive. It also means that the creative effort we put into the print journal can find expression in digital form. Finally, the print *BMJ* is increasingly a selection for UK readers from a larger body of online information aimed at our growing international audience. Now the iPad offers the potential for a different weekly slice of content targeted at international readers. We can even include the ads.

Reasons for confidence in the face of much uncertainty include the fact that we are working with the team that produced the BBC's iPad application, which has been well reviewed, and our draft designs look good, with minimal scrolling and intuitive navigation. If you'd like to comment on the designs and help us to decide on a price, please contact *bmj.com* editor David Payne (dpayne@bmj.com).

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

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Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1202

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