



Headache, flashing lights, and blurred vision

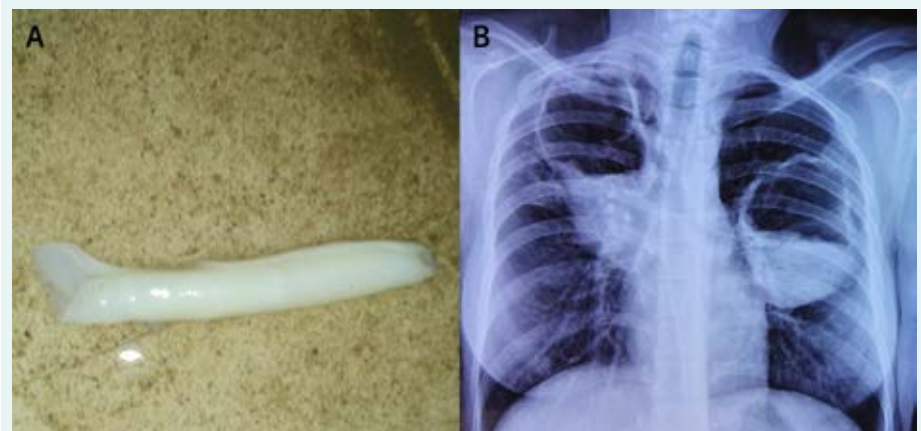
Try the picture quiz in **ENDGAMES**, p 35

Doctors use the internet every day to access health information, but the same does not apply to patients. A random sampling study of 2000 adults in Westphalia, Germany (*BMC Public Health* 2015;15:31, doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1423-0), which used landline telephone interviews, found that a quarter of the sample did not have an internet connection and a third of those who did never looked up health related information. People likely to have the greatest healthcare needs—migrants, those in the lowest social class, and those living alone—were the least likely to look online.

The more you look for hypoglycaemia in people treated for diabetes, the more you find. A study comparing ambulance electronic records, hospital episode statistics, and the patient administration system at Ipswich Hospital over a year found that at least a third of cases would be missed by looking at a single data source (*Postgraduate Medical Journal* 2015, doi:10.1136/postgradmedj-2014-132926). Of these, 33% related to sulfonylurea use in type 2 diabetes in patients with a mean age of 82 years. A quarter of all patients who required emergency department care for hypoglycaemia died the next year.

Genitourinary medicine used to be called venereology, in honour of Minerva's sister goddess Venus. Over the years, the infections experienced by her votaries have changed radically, although they remain few in kind. One of the last to be recognised is *Ureaplasma urealyticum* biovar 2, which can cause non-gonococcal urethritis. Results from a clinic in Seattle (*Sexually Transmitted Infections* 2015, doi:10.1136/sextrans-2014-051859) show that this species, like its sister *Ureaplasma parvum*, often survives standard treatment with doxycycline, azithromycin, and moxifloxacin, but that the urethritis will subside.

Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass is a more effective form of bariatric surgery than laparoscopic gastric banding, and a case series from Finland (*Scandinavian Journal of Surgery* 2015, doi:10.1177/1457496914553148) found no significant differences in early complications between the two techniques. Patients with an initial body mass index over 50 who had the bypass showed a 55% loss of excess weight at one year compared with 32% in the banding group. Hospital stays averaged less than three days in both groups.



A 25 year old woman presented with acute onset cough; streaky haemoptysis; and expectoration of large, whitish, salty sputum while bathing in the early morning. Physical examination was normal. Expecterated material comprised soft, slippery, glistening membrane-like structures (A). Chest radiography showed bilateral cavitating masses with air-fluid levels (B). Histopathological examination of membranes confirmed the diagnosis of ruptured hydatid cyst. Hydatid serology was positive. She improved with anthelmintic drugs

and remains asymptomatic 18 months since the event. Salty sputum and expectoration of whitish glistening membranes are unusual, yet characteristic, symptoms pointing to the diagnosis of ruptured pulmonary hydatid cyst.

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Patient consent obtained.

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A Canadian lung transplant unit is unusual in offering palliative care to patients on its waiting list. Most of them received opioids for breathlessness, but there was no evidence that this affected the outcome of their transplant surgery or led to dependency after the procedure (*Palliative Medicine* 2015, doi:10.1177/0269216314566839). Of the 30 patients who underwent lung transplantation, only seven still needed an opioid prescription one month after discharge. As the authors say, palliative care should not be delayed until a patient is deemed ineligible for transplantation.

Spanish wine was once pressed by señoritas with hitched skirts stamping on the grapes, but nowadays an extract of *Aspergillus niger* called Lallzyme is used to break down grape skin through the action of pectinase and hemicellulose. A 44 year old señora who worked in a wine cellar for 20 years noticed that each year she became wheezy shortly after the wine harvest (*Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 2015, doi:10.1136/oemed-2014-102564). Skin prick testing eventually showed that she was allergic to aspergillus elements in Lallzyme: a world first.

Intranasal administration is a quick way to get many drugs into the general circulation, but this is not altogether desirable when using them for purely local effects. Triamcinolone is a potent corticosteroid often squirted into the noses of children with seasonal allergic rhinitis. A painstaking controlled study in 3-9 year olds (*Pediatrics* 2015, doi:10.1542/peds.2014-1641) found that this has a growth retarding effect, which is most marked at the start of treatment, but it is too small to be clinically significant.

Minerva is secretly fond of cats, although her owl takes a dissenting view. Poorly pussy cats can present an enigma to mere human doctors. History taking is fraught with difficulty, and inexperienced examination can lead to bites and scratches. When pondering whether your cat has a fever, bring in the experts from the Small Animal Hospital in Glasgow: tympanic membrane measurement or rectal measurement will give you an accurate answer, but axillary measurement will not (*Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* 2015, doi:10.1177/1098612X14567550). There are more ways than one to take a cat's temperature.

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