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Famine threatens Horn of Africa, p 1466



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- 1453 Community involvement in dengue vector control**
Is effective but the contribution of human behaviour needs to be defined, say John P Elder and Kara Ballenger-Browning
» Research, p 1477
- 1454 Independent midwifery care versus NHS care in the UK**
A need to balance risks, benefits, and choice, say Allison Shorten and Brett Shorten
» Research, p 1485
- 1455 HIV infection in older people**
Increased longevity as a result of HAART raises new questions about the best treatment, says Kelly A Gebo
- 1456 The economic crisis and suicide**
Consequences may be serious and warrant early attention, say David Gunnell, Stephen Platt, and Keith Hawton
- 1458 Confidentiality and sharing health information**
Rights to health care should be balanced with duties to share information for reasonable purposes, says Julian Sheather

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- 1460 US healthcare reform; A/H1N1 flu**

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Australia will restrict antiretrovirals to high risk cases
- 1462 NHS is told to think radically to survive public spending squeeze**
US health reform "will take a lot more than a popular president," says expert
- 1463 Salaried GPs should not be exploited, annual conference of LMCs hears**
Sharing patient data should not be based on implied consent
- 1464 Clinic of murdered Kansas abortion doctor will not reopen**
University's attempt to discredit one of its staff is condemned
UK's largest hospital for children opens in Manchester to 35 000 patients a year
- 1465 Deaths from road traffic crashes will double without better laws**
- 1466 Images plus text warnings work best to put people off smoking**
Agencies combine to tackle world's chronic diseases
Famine threatens Horn of Africa as the world's hungry rises above a billion
Doctors must do more to promote men's health
- 1467 New group aims to detect and expose misuse of statistics**

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- 1468 What's new in the other general journals**

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- 1470 The end of lymphatic filariasis?**
Many programmes to improve health in poor countries are struggling, but as Moses Bockarie and David Molyneux report, elimination of lymphatic filariasis has a real chance of success

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YANKEE DOODLING

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Douglas Kamerow

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- 1474 Palivizumab and the importance of cost effectiveness**
Alison Teale, Sanjeev Deshpande, and Amanda Burls discuss the issues surrounding cost effectiveness decisions in the health service

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- 1501 George R Tiller; Alan Geoffrey Atkinson; John Collings-Wells; Geoffrey Stanley Charles Hibbert; Allan Hulme; Frank Robert Cassels Manning; George Davidson Scarrow; Christopher Neville Watson**

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- 1503 Who would want to be medicine's sacrificial lamb?**
Julian Sheather

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- 1504 If the price is right**
Ike Iheanacho

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- 1505 The end of civilisation**
Theodore Dalrymple

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- 1506 Getting on message**
Des Spence
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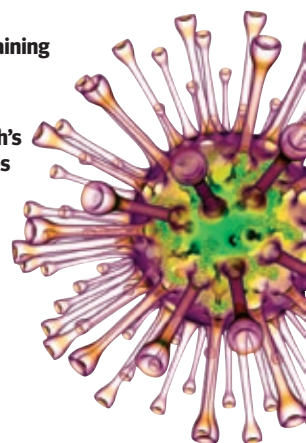
ENDGAMES

- 1507 Quiz page for doctors in training**

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- 1508 Obstetric bleeds in Jehovah's witnesses and other stories**

Swine flu, p 1461





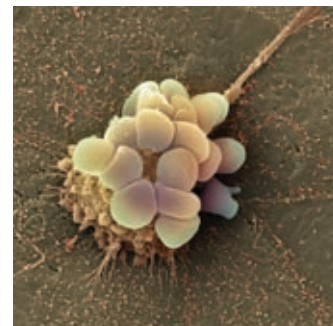
Aedes aegypti mosquito, p 1477



Cervical screening, p 1480



Leukaemia in children, p 1491



Ovarian cancer, p 1498

RESEARCH

1477 Community involvement in dengue vector control: cluster randomised trial

Compared to routine vector control, eradication of *Aedes aegypti* almost doubled when local people in Guantanamo, Cuba, were taught how to prevent spread of the mosquitoes
V Vanlerberghe, M E Toledo, M Rodríguez, D Gomez, A Baly, J R Benitez, P Van der Stuyft

» Editorial, p 1453

1480 Inequalities in reported use of breast and cervical screening in Great Britain: analysis of cross sectional survey data

Inequalities in breast screening were best explained by household wealth, whereas the strongest predictor of cervical screening was ethnicity

Kath Moser, Julietta Patnick, Valerie Beral

1485 Outcomes for births booked under an independent midwife and births in NHS maternity units: matched comparison study

pico

Parents, the NHS, and midwives stand to learn much from this large, detailed study of the relative benefits and risks

Andrew Symon, Clare Winter, Melanie Inkster, Peter T Donnan

» Editorial, p 1454

1486 Statin use and risk of community acquired pneumonia in older people: population based case-control study

pico

Statins might be expected to reduce the risk of pneumonia, but this study in more than 1100 reasonably healthy older Americans found no such effect

Sascha Dublin, Michael L Jackson, Jennifer C Nelson, Noel S Weiss, Eric Larson, Lisa A Jackson

RESEARCH METHODS AND REPORTING

1487 Prognosis and prognostic research: application and impact of prognostic models in clinical practice

An accurate prognostic model is of no benefit if it is not generalisable or doesn't change behaviour. In the last article in their series, Karel Moons and colleagues discuss how to determine the practical value of models

Karel G M Moons, Douglas G Altman, Yvonne Vergouwe, Patrick Royston

CLINICAL REVIEW

1491 Acute leukaemia in children: diagnosis and management

Chris Mitchell, Georgina Hall, Rachel T Clarke

PRACTICE

1496 Change page: Advise use of rear facing child car seats for children under 4 years old

This article reviews evidence for changes in practice by parents, manufacturers, and retailers

Elizabeth A Watson, Michael J Monteiro

1498 A patient's journey: The invisible worm: ovarian cancer

It took nine months for Gill Reeve's GP practice to diagnose her symptoms as ovarian cancer. She wants to know why it took so long
Gill Reeve, Stuart Mackay-Thomas

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ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/APIPA

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A worker fumigates an area with a pesticide to curb the breeding of mosquitoes in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan health authorities are trying to curb the spread of dengue, commonly transmitted by infected mosquitoes, as the number of related deaths has risen across the country. See Editorial, p 1453, Research, p 1477.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

70% Increased risk of suicide with unemployment (Editorial, p 1456)

1.3 million Number of people who die in road traffic accidents worldwide per year (News, p 1465)

£50 million Amount committed by the British government for the control of neglected tropical diseases (Feature, p 1470)

3% Proportion of eligible women in Great Britain who have never undergone breast and cervical screening (Research, p 1480)

450 Number of new acute leukaemia cases diagnosed annually in the UK (Clinical Review, p 1491)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“If the recession has any benefit, it’s that it can be a great catalyst for doing things differently” (News, p 1462)

“The need to prioritise resources will continue to be an uncomfortable but necessary fact of life for the NHS” (Analysis, p 1474)

“Women using an independent midwife were more likely to have a spontaneous labour and unassisted vaginal delivery” (Research, p 1485)

“Doctors miss ovarian cancer so frequently that it is known as ‘the silent killer.’” (Practice, p 1498)

“A respect for patients’ autonomy has brought medicine to a standstill” (Review of the Week, p 1503)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Individual or public good



MINDFIELD DESIGN

Practice, p 1496

This week, general practitioners' representatives gave a vote of no confidence in the UK government's plans for sharing patients' data. If fully implemented, the NHS summary care record would put basic patient information on a national database. Delegates at the BMA's annual conference of local medical committees voted overwhelmingly against the idea of implied consent for sharing data with third parties (p 1463). Patients should be asked to opt in rather than opt out, they said.

The failings of the government's IT programme and concerns about clinical confidentiality must be largely to blame for this lack of confidence in the system. But our report of the debate suggests a dose of vested interest as well. Being the prime data holder of patients' medical records was seen by one speaker as "the last bargaining card" against the privatisation of general practice.

This doesn't seem a good reason to advise patients against taking part. The Royal College of General Practitioners now takes a different view. In a rapid response posted this week, its leaders say that they are ready to recommend the summary care record to patients because, in their view, governance and security are now guaranteed (see www.bmj.com/cgi/eletters/338/jun15_1/b2441).

Which of them is right will depend on how good the system is and what harms might result when data are leaked or misused. In an editorial, Julian Sheather asks us to look beyond the confusion of interests to find sound principles on which to base the contract

between patients and their health system (p 1458). As in so many aspects of health care, the rights and needs of the individual can be in tension with the public interest. An absolute requirement for consent to use data for non-clinical purposes, such as audit and research, would impede the large data flows needed for high quality health care, he says. "Perhaps in time we could seek to balance rights to health care with duties to share information for reasonable health related purposes."

Sheather has a second piece in this week's journal that reaches a different view on the balance between individual autonomy and public good (p 1503). During a science festival debate about the risks of surgery, he was shocked to find surgeons and patients united against the obstacles that ethical considerations throw up between innovative surgeons and vulnerable patients. A few patients have died, but think of the thousands saved by new techniques, the audience said—the desire for public good seeming to triumph. In this case Sheather comes down on the side of the individual. The public interest is all well and good, but which of us would want to be the sacrificial lamb, he asks.

In seeking to strike an intelligent balance between individual patients' rights and health has a collective social enterprise, we have to acknowledge that our choices will differ in different circumstances, and much will depend on the potential for serious harm. But let's be clear whose interests we are serving.

Fiona Godlee, editor, BMJfgodlee@bmj.com

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WHAT'S NEW AT THE BMJ GROUP

Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery

Read articles published ahead of the launch of this new title by BMJ Group and the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery in July. You can obtain free access to jnisi.org for the duration of 2009.

Read our 1000th case report for FREE:

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Nausea and vomiting in early pregnancy

Updated review from *Clinical Evidence*, now including coverage on metoclopramide and acupressure clinicalevidence.bmj.com

BMJ Masterclass for GPs: General Update

Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 June, Birmingham. Last chance to register! Book now at: masterclasses.bmj.com/GPs

New Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin (DTB) Podcast

Real costs of end-of-life drugs Listen at podcasts.bmj.com/dtb



PLUS

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1506



WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

LATEST HEAD TO HEAD

Experts disagree on whether healthy people should take methylphenidate (Ritalin) to enhance their mental performance. John Harris, Professor of Bioethics at the University of Manchester, argues that society "ought to want [enhancement]" and that "it is not rational to be against human enhancement." But Professor Anjan Chatterjee from the University of Pennsylvania argues that there are too many risks in taking Ritalin unless you are actually ill. He notes that the Food and Drug Administration rated it a "black box" the most alarming of possible warnings.

LATEST BLOGS

Domhnall MacAuley reports back from a meeting of cardiovascular epidemiologists where the finding that drew most interest was the cardiovascular benefit associated with red wine consumption. The fact that eating tomatoes has a similar cardiovascular benefit was not so enthusiastically received.

Ohad Oren asks how medical students can adapt to their ever changing profession and keep up with the constantly evolving discipline of medicine. He wonders whether the criteria by which medical students are chosen should change to reflect this, "isn't it time to once again determine the traits and abilities that the ideal medical student should possess?", he asks.

Elsewhere, Siddhartha Yadav is optimistic about research in South Asia after attending the South Asian Forum for Health Research. He was encouraged that, "every country had something to offer and something to learn from others". Finally, Tauseef Mehrali, a self confessed meat lover, thinks about the effects that meat eating is having on climate change and tries to minimise his meat intake by having "meat free Mondays".

Find out more at <http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/>



Last week's poll asked:

"Does English libel law threaten scientific debate in health care?"

You voted: **Yes 92 (80%)**

No 23 (20%)

This week's poll asks:

"Is medicine failing male patients?"

Submit your vote on bmj.com

LATEST VIDEO

bmj.com will soon host a video about Sir Richard Doll. He was a luminary of clinical research whose case control study, published in the *BMJ* in 1950, first identified smoking as an important cause of cancer and other diseases. The paper's findings were received with apathy, anger, and disbelief. This 10 minute film to promote the *BMJ* archive, now fully searchable back to 1840, charts Doll's remarkable life and the impact of both this paper, and his follow-up British Doctors' Study.

Find out more at bmj.com/video

MOST READ

Self administered cognitive screening test (TYM) for detection of Alzheimer's disease

Diagnosis of dementia

Early management of persistent non-specific low back pain: summary of NICE guidance

Acne vulgaris

Damage control resuscitation for patients with major trauma



LATEST PODCAST



As part of National Men's Health Week 2009, the *BMJ* participated in a balloon debate, at London's O2 Arena, entitled, "Men's health: all just hot air?". This week's podcast reports from the debate and there will also be video footage.

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

Doc2doc, BMJ Group's new online community for doctors, is compiling a book for newly qualified doctors to get them through their first days on the wards. To find out more go to the 'e-book for graduates' discussion. Alternatively you can get involved in this project by writing a blog about your memories of your first days as a doctor. Contact tnolan@bmjgroup.com for more information.



Here are some of the discussions proving popular among doc2doc members. To join any of the discussions below, login or register at doc2doc.bmj.com

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- How to identify a surgeon without asking ...
- Do you have negative attitudes towards obese patients?
- Patients in prisons: should we be entitled to know their crimes?

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