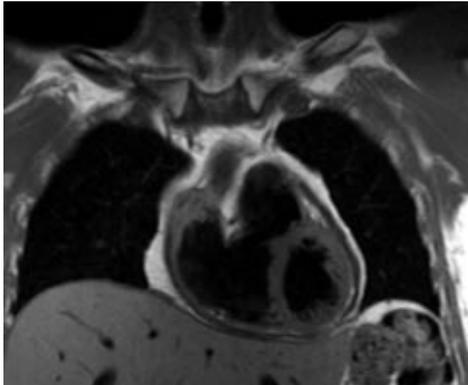


PICTURE QUIZ

Fatigue, facial flushing, and ankle and abdominal swelling in a 53 year old man

A 53 year old man presented with an 18 month history of fatigue, abdominal distension, and ankle swelling. Initial clinical examination, electrocardiography, chest radiography, and blood tests were unremarkable except for his liver enzymes, which showed a cholestatic pattern. Ultrasound and computed tomography scans of his abdomen showed mild hepatomegaly and a trace of ascites. A liver biopsy demonstrated non-specific inflammation and sinusoidal congestion. He recently developed flushing of his ears and face on bending forwards, which takes several minutes to clear on standing. At this stage he underwent magnetic resonance imaging of his chest.

- 1 What clinical sign is likely to be present on examination?
- 2 What is the diagnosis?
- 3 What are the causes of this condition?
- 4 How should it be treated?



Submitted by Rose Abbott, Harry R Dalton
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PRIZE QUIZ: Consent

Each week we offer a prize of a *BMJ* memory stick to the person who answers correctly, in the quickest time, a set of exam questions taken from OnExamination. To enter the quiz, go to www.onexamination.com/endgames. The competition closes at midnight on Wednesday, and the winner will be announced in the print *BMJ*.

Here's one question from this week's quiz on consent from a range of examinations.

You intend to publish a case report as a fascinema of the month in a national medical journal. As part of the publication you provide an image from the magnetic resonance image film of the abdomen. Medical illustration have transferred the film to electronic format and have removed all patient identification markings. The case report itself is otherwise completely anonymous. Which of the following concerning consent is correct? (Select one option)

- Consent for publication may not be required depending on the journal to which the manuscript is submitted
- Consent for publication must be sought from the local ethics committee
- Consent for publication of the image must be obtained from the radiologist
- Patient consent for publication is not required
- Patient consent must be provided for publication

Once the competition closes answers to this question can be viewed at www.onexamination.com/Endgames/LastEndgame.aspx.

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Risk

A group of investigators decided to test the hypothesis that use of postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy increases the risk of breast cancer. They identified 500 women with newly diagnosed breast cancer, and 500 women of the same age, from the same neighbourhoods as the first group of women, who did not have breast cancer. Among the women with breast cancer, 250 reported having used postmenopausal hormones. Among those without breast cancer, 175 reported use of such hormones. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) The excess risk of breast cancer in women taking HRT is 15%—that is, $(250-175)/500$
- b) The risk of breast cancer in this group of women was 50%—that is, $500/(500+500)$
- c) The relative risk of breast cancer in women taking HRT was 1.43—that is $(250/500)/(175/500)$
- d) The odds ratio for breast cancer in women taking HRT was 1.86—that is $(250/250)/(175/325)$

Submitted by John Fletcher
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a2293

CASE REPORT

Normal pregnancy or neoplasia?

A 24 year old woman, gravida 1 para 1, presented with a request for contraception four months after delivery of a healthy baby and a normal placenta. She did not breastfeed, was asymptomatic, and did not have a return of menses (postpartum amenorrhea). A urinary pregnancy test was performed, which was positive. Transvaginal ultrasonography showed no intrauterine or extrauterine pregnancy; the endometrium was regular, 3 mm thick; and the ovaries were normal. The concentration of serum human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) was 92 713 IU/l (normal <5 IU/l), and one week later it was 117 056 IU/l. She underwent dilatation and curettage, and the pathological specimen showed no decidua or trophoblastic tissue. Hysteroscopy and laparoscopy showed a normal uterine cavity, tubes, and ovaries. A thoraco-abdominal computed tomography scan and magnetic resonance imaging of the brain showed no abnormality.

- 1 What is your diagnosis?
- 2 What are the prognostic factors?
- 3 Which treatment do you recommend?

Submitted by Alexandre Rozenholc, Patrick Petignat
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a2107

The winner of the prize quiz on pharmacology was Denise Stevens