

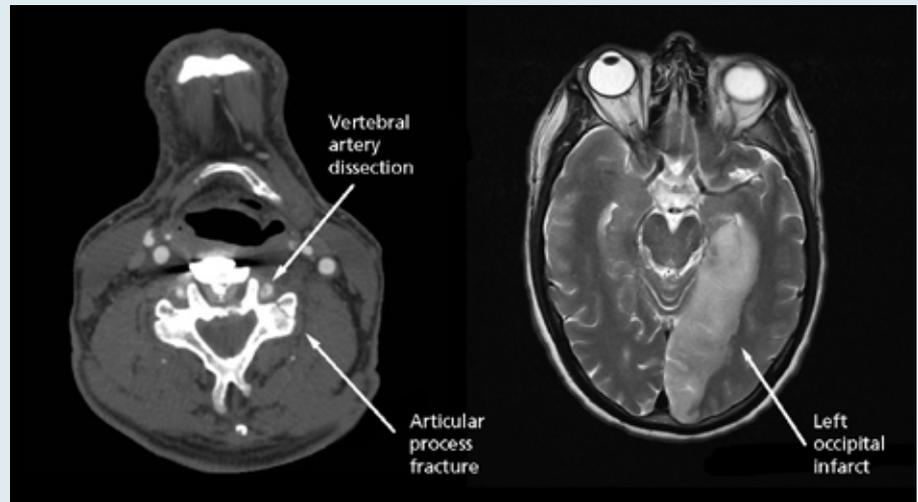
Sagittal T2 weighted magnetic resonance image of the brain
Try our anatomy picture quiz in ENDGAMES, p 511

People admitted to hospital for type 2 diabetes in Sweden have an increased risk of developing cancer. Data from over 125 000 patients admitted between 1964 and 2007 suggest that the profound metabolic disturbances of unmanaged diabetes may be carcinogenic. The highest risks were found for liver and pancreatic cancers. No excess risk of cancer was seen for people with familial diabetes. The authors say they can't explain why prostate cancer comes in with the lowest risk (*Oncologist* 2010;15:548-55, doi:10.1634/theoncologist.2009-0300).

After the 2008 post-election violence in Kenya, 16 428 internally displaced people moved into a demographic surveillance area where field workers visit households every four months to record migrations, births, and deaths (*Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2010;88:601-8, doi:10.2471/BLT.09.069732). Over half the displaced people stayed for six months or longer. In 2008, those aged 15 to 49 years had an increased death rate compared with regular residents, and those aged over 5 had a greater percentage of deaths from HIV infection. Internally displaced children had a higher rate of hospital admission but not of death.

Do gurgling breath sounds heard during quiet breathing or speech signify anything important? A study compared 20 patients with gurgle with 60 patients without gurgle. The gurgling patients were older, were more likely to live in nursing homes, and were more likely to have dementia. After adjusting for age, stroke, dementia, and opiate administration, gurgling emerged as the sole independent predictor of hospital acquired pneumonia and transfer to the intensive care unit. Gurgling did not predict death (*Chest* 2010;138:284-8, doi:10.1378/chest.09-2713).

People with serious mental illness earn on average a third less than median earnings (*British Journal of Psychiatry* 2010;197:114-21, doi:10.1192/bjp.bp.109.073635), according to surveys done by the World Health Organization in 10 high income countries and nine low and middle income countries. Reduced earnings and the increased probability of not earning both contributed importantly to the discrepancy. No significant differences were seen between countries. The findings add to a growing body of evidence on the high societal costs of mental health disorders.



A 62 year old man presented with neck pain after falling down a flight of stairs. Computed tomography of the spine showed a left articular process fracture of the fifth cervical vertebra extending anteriorly into the foramen transversarium. He developed right arm weakness from acute disc herniation at C4/C5 and underwent decompression surgery. On day 4, he developed a right homonymous hemianopia secondary to a left occipital lobe infarct. A computed tomography angiogram showed a focal dissection of the left vertebral artery at C4/C5. Since the vertebral artery ascends through the foramen transversarium, a fracture should raise suspicion of a vertebral artery injury.

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Patient consent obtained.

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An unusual source of colophonium contact allergy is described in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* (2010;103:332-4, doi:10.1258/jrsm.2010.090418). A doctor presented with a two year history of episodes of reddened skin on his cheeks. He was treated with penicillin for presumed streptococcal cellulitis and was then given a prophylactic dose; but despite this treatment, a strip of dusky erythema appeared again on his left cheek. Further questioning revealed that he'd played the cello the night before the rash appeared and had applied lots of rosin to his bow. It emerged that the rash had also been worse after his wedding, when he'd been kissed on the cheek many times by women wearing lipstick.

A comparison of five year survival after total hip replacement, using revision surgery as an endpoint, reports 90.9% in morbidly obese people and 100% for the non-obese. Obesity also introduced a higher rate of complications (22% v 5%, P=0.012), including dislocations and deep and superficial infections. The

authors conclude that morbidly obese patients should be advised to lose weight before undergoing a total hip replacement and counselled about the potential complications, while acknowledging that such patients still stand to benefit from improved function and quality of life (*Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* 2010;92-B:1066-71, doi:10.1302/0301-620x.92B8.22764).

One hundred and seventy four mothers with normal pregnancies and term deliveries gave data on general and pregnancy specific anxiety and stress and provided saliva samples for measurement of circadian cortisol. Even after controlling for relevant confounders, prenatal anxiety and stress showed a correlation with infants' general illness, respiratory problems, skin complaints, and use of antibiotics throughout the first year of life. Digestive illnesses in infants, however, were not related to prenatal anxiety and stress (*Pediatrics* 2010;126:e401-9, doi:10.1542/peds.2009-3226).

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