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ENDGAMES

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CASE REPORT

A man with congenital abnormalities and psychotic symptoms

A white man in his 20s came to the attention of psychiatric services because of repeated acts of genital mutilation, often in the context of alcohol and opiate abuse. He first presented in his late teens with psychotic symptoms, which included persecutory, somatic, and bizarre delusions, and he had attracted a variety of diagnoses. However, these assessments seem to have been clouded by his longstanding use of illicit substances.

He had been born with a cleft palate and showed developmental delay, particularly of speech. His family struggled with his behaviour. He could not cope with mainstream schooling, and early records noted an IQ of 68, indicating a mild learning disability.

1 What is his possible diagnosis?
2 How would you set about confirming the diagnosis?
3 How would this affect your management plan?

Submitted by Toral Thomas, Balasubramanian Saravanan, Fiona Blake
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a2706

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Interpreting an underpowered trial

In a trial of a herbal treatment for symptoms of menopause the power calculation described in the protocol required 400 patients to be randomised. Unfortunately, recruitment was slow and the trial had to be stopped after 200 patients as funding was running out. Which if any of the following statements is true?

a) The possibility of a type one error is increased and the possibility of a type two error is unaltered.
b) The possibility of a type two error is increased and the possibility of a type one error is unaltered.
c) The possibility of both a type one error and a type two error is increased.
d) The possibility of both types of error is unaltered

Submitted by John Fletcher
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a2957

PRIZE QUIZ: Radiology

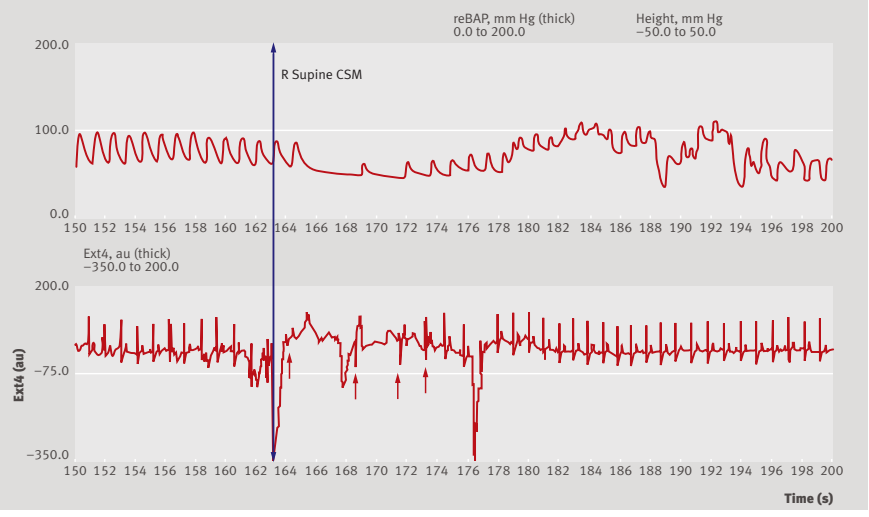
Each week we offer a prize of a BMJ memory stick to the person who answers correctly, in the quickest time, a set of examination questions taken from OnExamination. To enter the quiz, go to www.onexamination.com/endgames. The competition closes at midnight on Wednesday, and the winner will be announced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

Answers to this question can be viewed at www.onexamination.com/Endgames/LastEndgame.aspx.

Here's one question from this week's quiz on radiology from the FRCR Part 1 examination.
For x ray photons interacting with soft tissue, which of the statements are true?

- Compton scattering interactions predominate below 30 keV
- Photoelectric absorption predominates for photons above 30 keV
- 30 keV photons undergoing Compton scattering lose up to 30% of their energy
- Rayleigh scattering causes no loss of photon energy
- Elastic scattering constitutes typically 10% of interactions in radiology

The winner of the prize quiz on allergy was Munawar Hussain



Simultaneous beat to beat blood pressure (above) and electrocardiograph (below) tracings performed during right sided supine carotid sinus massage. Arrow indicates onset of 5 second carotid sinus massage. Image created with BeatScope software, using data obtained from a Finometer device

PICTURE QUIZ

Recurrent loss of consciousness

An electrocardiograph and beat to beat blood pressure recordings were performed during right sided supine carotid sinus massage on a 78 year old man. He reported frequent episodes of loss of consciousness, which were typically of sudden onset followed within minutes by rapid recovery to full health. Some were associated with jerking movements of his limbs. He linked some of these episodes to turning his head. He had no important comorbidities but had recently fallen and sustained a fracture.

1 What is the most likely cause for this patient's recurrent episodes of loss of consciousness?
2 Outline the assessment he should have before carotid sinus massage.
3 Outline the treatment options available.

Submitted by John Cooke, Sheila Carew, Aine Costello, Tina Sheehy, Declan Lyons
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