

ENDGAMES

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FOR SHORT ANSWERS

See p 1063

FOR LONG ANSWERS

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Fig 1 | Chest radiograph



Fig 2 | Computed tomogram of the chest

PICTURE QUIZ

An odd cause of dysphagia

A 39 year old woman presented to the medical admissions unit with a four week history of worsening shortness of breath associated with a dry cough, plus a two week history of a pressure sensation in her neck with difficulty swallowing solids. She reported weight loss of around 3 kg and an aching sensation in both arms, although she denied any weakness or numbness. The patient was otherwise well, did not smoke, and had no relevant medical history. Her examination was unremarkable. Chest radiography was undertaken (fig 1).

On the basis of the chest radiograph, further investigations were requested, including computed tomography of the neck, thorax, abdomen, and pelvis (fig 2).

- 1 How would you describe the chest radiography and computed tomography findings?
- 2 What are the main differential diagnoses?
- 3 How would you investigate this patient?
- 4 What are the treatment options?

Submitted by Byron Temba Theron, Laura Pearson, and John Gillson
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STATISTICAL QUESTION

Number needed to harm

Last week's question described a trial that assessed the efficacy and safety of varenicline, a smoking cessation aid for users of smokeless tobacco. A double blind, placebo controlled, randomised controlled trial was performed. In total, 213 participants were allocated to varenicline and 218 to placebo. Treatment was for 12 weeks, with 14 weeks of follow-up after treatment.

The primary end point was continuous abstinence from smoking for four weeks at the end of treatment (weeks 9 to 12). Secondary end points included adverse events. One of the most common adverse events was headaches, which were reported by 10% of the varenicline group and 9% of the placebo group.

Which one of the following is the number needed to harm for the comparison of varenicline with placebo in the adverse event of headaches?

- a) 100
- b) 10
- c) 0
- d) -10
- e) -100

Submitted by Philip Sedgwick
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ON EXAMINATION QUIZ

Schizophrenia

This week's question is on schizophrenia and is taken from the onExamination revision questions for the MRCPsych Paper 3 examination.

A 22 year old man with an 18 month history of paranoid schizophrenia has had two recent severe relapses. His parents, who blame their son for the illness, are not keen on him taking medication and provide you with a list of treatments they have obtained from the internet. They ask you if there are any other interventions that can reduce relapse rates.

For which one of the following is there evidence of reduced relapse rates in schizophrenia?

- A Cognitive enhancement therapy
- B Family therapy
- C Individual psychotherapy
- D Social skills training
- E Supported employment