

## FOR SHORT ANSWERS

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## FOR LONG ANSWERS

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# ENDGAMES

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## STATISTICAL QUESTION

### Relative risk reduction and absolute risk reduction

In a trial comparing a drug with a placebo for the prevention of stroke, the incidence of stroke at 1 year was 3% in the group receiving drug A (treatment group) and 4% in the group receiving placebo (control group);  $P=0.01$ . What is the reduction in incidence of stroke in patients treated with drug A compared with those on placebo, and what is the difference in incidence between the two groups?

- a) 25% and 1%
- b) 50% and 1%
- c) 75% and 1%
- d) 100% and 1%

Submitted by Siva K Talluri

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## CASE REPORT

### Persistent diarrhoea in a young woman

A 25 year old woman presented with repetitive diarrhoea associated with a mucous discharge and abdominal pain for the past six months. She passed 5 - 10 stools a day, with urgency and a sensation of incomplete emptying. Her symptoms were aggravated by episodes of interpersonal stress and improved after defecation. She had no history of nocturnal diarrhoea, rectal bleeding, or weight loss. Simple analgesia improved her symptoms. Her illness was eroding her confidence and negatively affecting her social life. Clinical examination, including a rectal examination, was normal.

- 1 What is the likely diagnosis?
- 2 What investigation, if any, would confirm the diagnosis?
- 3 Which symptoms should prompt further evaluation?
- 4 What new treatments are available?

Submitted by Rene Ramnarace, James Ricketts, and Harry Dalton

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## PICTURE QUIZ

### An itchy ear that became painful

A 23 year old medical student presented with a four week history of an itchy ear that became painful. The patient reported associated hearing loss, and there was scanty offensive smelling otorrhoea. On examination the pinna was red, warm, and mildly tender. The external auditory canal lumen was narrowed owing to oedema and inflammation. As a result, the ear drum could not be seen.

- 1 What is the likely diagnosis?
- 2 What are the most likely causative agents?
- 3 What treatment would you recommend?
- 4 When is referral to secondary care advised?

Submitted by Dipan Mistry and Helen Atkinson

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## ON EXAMINATION QUIZ

### Calcium

The answers to this question, and more questions on this topic, are available from [www.onexamination.com/endgames](http://www.onexamination.com/endgames) until midnight on Wednesday. This week's quiz is on calcium and is taken from the OnExamination revision questions for the GPST exam.

A 49 year old woman developed tetany in both hands two days after she underwent total thyroidectomy. Her corrected serum calcium was 1.9 mmol/l (normal range 2.2-2.6).

Which one of the four options is the most appropriate management for this patient?

- A Breathing into a brown paper bag
- B Intravenous calcium gluconate
- C Oral calcium supplements
- D Oral thyroxine