



A 46 year old woman with pain in her right loin and tiredness. Try the picture quiz in ENDGAMES, p 1207

Digit ratio—the relative lengths of the second and fourth fingers—has been studied as a biomarker of prenatal exposure to androgens, which might affect later psychological characteristics. A study in *Endocrinology* (2009;150:5119-24, doi:10.1210/en.2009-0774) reports that in individuals with 46,XY karyotype who had complete androgen insensitivity syndrome (and therefore no effective prenatal androgen exposure) digit ratios were higher than those of typical men, and similar to those of typical women. But the modest effect size and large within group variability suggested that the ratio is not a good marker of individual exposure.

An analysis of rising prevalence of diabetes around the world concludes that there are three patterns: gradual, rapid, and accelerated. Ageing, sedentary lifestyles, and obesity are contributing to the gradual rise among Europeans, while fast changes in nutritional status and maternal hyperglycaemia (which passes on a risk of glucose intolerance to the offspring of these women) lead to rapid and accelerated rises, respectively. Weight loss, improving nutritional status in childbearing women, and exercise remain the mainstay of preventing diabetes worldwide (*Journal of the Nepal Medical Association* 2009;48:173-9).

It's common practice to give prophylactic antibiotics to children who have had a urinary tract infection to prevent further infections. Yet a systematic review of randomised controlled trials assessing the effectiveness of such approaches found no difference between intervention and control groups in the recurrence of symptomatic urinary tract infections and the incidence of new or progressive renal scarring (*Acta Paediatrica* 2009;98:1781-6, doi:10.1111/j.1651-2227.2009.01433.x).

Is breech presentation a risk factor for cerebral palsy? Perinatal data from more than 177 000 children born in Norway and followed up for three years identified 245 children with the condition. Among children born in breech the odds ratio for cerebral palsy was 3.6 (95% CI 2.4 to 5.3). The increased risk was reduced when adjusted for preterm birth, smallness for gestational age, and plurality. For singletons born in breech by vaginal delivery at term, the odds ratio was 3.9



A 77 year old man presented with a two day history of right sided abdominal pain and a rash. Examination revealed typical shingles lesions for which a standard course of oral aciclovir was prescribed (800 mg five times daily for seven days). Two weeks later the patient returned with abdominal swelling. The diagnosis was segmental zoster paresis, an uncommon but well recognised complication of shingles. If the cause is unclear, investigation for other causes of thoracic motor neuropathy may be needed. Otherwise patients can be reassured that full recovery is usual but may take several months.

Mark A Kordan (mark.kordan@sbpct.nhs.uk), general practitioner, Dudley Park Medical Centre, Birmingham B27 6QR

Patient consent obtained.

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(95% CI 1.6 to 9.7). The severity of cerebral palsy did not differ between breech or vertex deliveries (*Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* 2009;51:860-5, doi:10.1111/j.1469-8749.2009.03338.x).

Contracting out prison health care has become more popular in the United States over the past few years, mainly because this approach is thought to reduce costs. A study in *Health Economics* (2009;18:1248-60, doi:10.1002/hec.1427) has used clever mathematics to estimate the change in mortality among inmates associated with contracting out of health care. The study found that there was a 13% increase in the number of medical staff contracted, and mortality rose significantly by 1.3%.

The mosquitoes responsible for transmitting West Nile virus seem to be attracted to a chemical that is naturally produced by humans.

Scientists identified the odorant nonanal by screening chemicals produced by several human ethnic groups and bird species. Only nonanal elicited strong responses in the olfactory receptor neurons found in the antennae of the mosquitoes. They went on to demonstrate that traps baited with nonanal lured huge numbers of the insects to their death (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2009;106:18803-8, doi:10.1073/pnas.0906932106).

Debate continues to rage over whether national human papillomavirus vaccination programmes that focus on adolescent girls are right to do so. The argument is that vaccinating girls is sufficient to achieve linear reduction in prevalence of the infection in girls, and a non-linear reduction in prevalence in boys. A commentary in *BJOG* notes, however, that sex specific vaccination programmes miss a trick by not taking the opportunity to teach boys about their role in transmitting the virus in the first place (2009, doi:10.1111/j.1471-0528.2009.02369.x)

Spread of gastroenteritis within families is common but rarely detected by usual surveillance methods. A community based study of 600 households identified 258 household clusters of gastroenteritis involving 774 residents (28% of the total). Age under 6 years and attendance at childcare facilities were associated with increased risk of being in an infected cluster. The "reach" into households was extensive, with 63% of household members becoming infected, but only in 20% of clusters did more than one member of infected households submit a faecal specimen, so the true frequency of clusters might have been underestimated (*Epidemiology and Infection* 2009;137:1705-12, doi:10.1017/S0950268809990124).

A study of injuries sustained during the 2008 Olympic Games calculates that the 1055 reported injuries give an injury rate of 96 injuries per 1000 registered athletes. Half of them were expected to prevent the athlete from participating in competition or training, and the two most common injuries were thigh strains and ankle sprains. A third of the injuries were caused by direct contact with another athlete, while 22% were directly attributable to overuse (*American Journal of Sports Medicine* 2009;37:2165-72, doi:10.1177/0363546509339357).

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