endgames

The answers to this question, and more questions on this topic, are available from www.onexamination.com/endgames until midnight on Wednesday.

This week’s quiz is on headaches in children and is taken from the OnExamination revision questions for the MRCPCH part 1 A and B exams.

PICTURE QUIZ 
A case of diplopia and arm weakness

A previously fit and well 84 year old woman presented with a three month history of worsening double vision. Her double vision was maximal on looking to the left and upwards. Her relatives had also noted “drooping” of her eyelids, which was worse on the right and most noticeable in the evenings. Three weeks previously her upper arms had become progressively weaker, to the extent that she was unable to lift her left hand above her head. The weakness was worse on exertion and improved after rest. Figures 1 and 2 show the patient attempting to look to the left. Her cognitive function and tendon reflexes were normal, and she had no sensory signs.

1 What clinical signs are apparent?
2 What is the likely diagnosis?
3 How would you investigate this patient?
4 How would you manage this patient?

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Cite this as: BMJ 2009;339:b4555

ON EXAMINATION QUIZ 
Headaches in children

The answers to this question, and more questions on this topic, are available from www.onexamination.com/endgames until midnight on Wednesday.

This week’s quiz is on headaches in children and is taken from the OnExamination revision questions for the MRCPCH part 1 A and B exams.

An 8 year old girl presents with a two week history of headache, which has been severe and is worst in the mornings. Her headache has been accompanied by effortless vomiting and has kept her off school the past four days. Her school performance has been deteriorating over the past term.

The patient had a full term normal delivery with no neonatal complications, and her immunisations are up to date. There is no family history or social history of note.

On examination, she is on the 50th centile for height and weight and is apyrexial, with a pulse rate of 70 beats/min, respiratory rate of 15 breaths/min, and blood pressure of 125/100 mm Hg. Fundoscopy reveals blurring of the optic disc margins bilaterally.

What is the most likely diagnosis?
A Cerebral abscess
B Medulloblastoma
C Migraine
D Sinusitis
E Tension headache

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Random allocation II

A randomised, single blind, controlled trial investigated whether knee tape reduced pain and disability for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee. The trial had three intervention arms: therapeutic tape, control tape, and no tape.

A total of 87 patients were recruited from an outpatient clinic. Allocation to an intervention was undertaken using groups of three consecutive patients. Within each group of three patients, each individual received a different intervention and the order in which the interventions were allocated was random.

Which one of the following statements best describes the method by which patients were allocated to an intervention?

a) Simple random allocation
b) Block random allocation
c) Systematic allocation
d) Cluster random allocation

Submitted by Philip Sedgwick
Cite this as: BMJ 2009;339:b4924