

FOR SHORT ANSWERS

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FOR LONG ANSWERS

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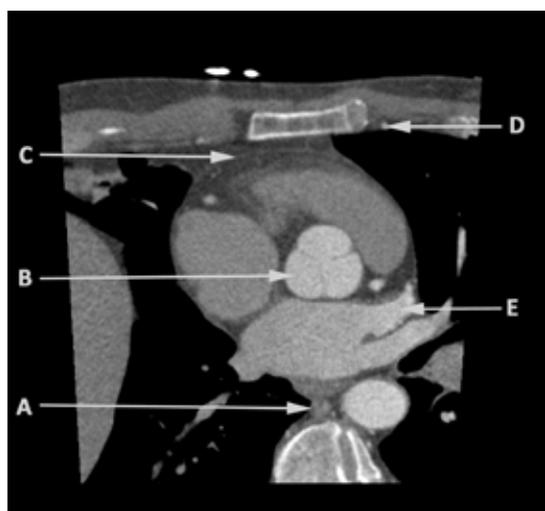
ANATOMY QUIZ

Computed tomography through the aortic root

Identify the structures labelled A to E in this reformatted computed tomography section through the aortic sinus of the heart.

Submitted by Jonathan Colledge and Wade Gayed

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PICTURE QUIZ

A woman with raised alkaline phosphatase and forearm deformity

A 71 year old Chinese woman was referred from the general outpatient clinic to our endocrine clinic for evaluation of raised serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP), which had been measured as part of a routine check-up. Apart from a history of hypertension and gout, she was well. For the past two years her blood tests had shown a raised ALP (183-277 U/L; reference range 47-124). Liver enzymes, renal function tests, thyroid function tests, and adjusted calcium and phosphate concentrations were all within normal ranges.

Examinations of the abdomen, cardiovascular system, and respiratory system were normal. She was noted to have a deformity of the right forearm (fig 1). She denied a history of trauma or fracture. The deformity had been present for three years, but she had not sought medical advice because it did not affect her hand function and was not painful. A radiograph of the right forearm was taken (fig 2).

- 1 What is the diagnosis?
- 2 Describe the radiological abnormalities that confirm the diagnosis
- 3 How would you treat this condition?

Submitted by Joanne KY Lam, Karen S L Lam, Annie W C Kung, Kathryn C B Tan, Wing-Sun Chow, Annette W K Tso

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Fig 1 | Deformity of the right forearm



Fig 2 | Radiograph of the right forearm

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Patient preference trials

Researchers compared the efficacy of antidepressant drugs with generic counselling for the treatment of mild to moderate depression in general practice. A randomised controlled trial, with patient preference arms, was conducted. In total, 52 patients were randomised to counselling and 51 to antidepressant drugs, with 140 recruited to the counselling and 80 to the antidepressant preference arms.

The outcome measures included the Beck depression inventory score at one year follow-up. No differences were reported in Beck scores between the randomised arms or patient preference groups. Patients who chose counselling did better than those who were randomised to it.

Which of the following statements, if any, are true?

- a) All patients were randomised to a treatment
- b) Patients could choose which treatment they received
- c) Systematic differences in baseline characteristics between the randomised groups were minimised
- d) The potential for performance bias was reduced in the randomised treatment groups

Submitted by Philip Sedgwick

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ON EXAMINATION QUIZ Heparin

This week's question is on heparin and is taken from the onExamination revision questions for the MRCS Part 1 exam.

Which of the following is true regarding heparin?

- A It enhances antithrombin III activity
- B It has no effect on platelet aggregation
- C It induces thrombocytopenia in 20% of patients
- D It is a strongly acidic protein
- E It readily crosses the placenta