



Anatomy of the female pelvis

Try the anatomy quiz in ENDGAMES, p 46

A prospective randomised controlled trial compared three types of bearing for total hip replacement: cobalt-chrome on ultra high molecular weight polyethylene (standard), cobalt-chrome on highly cross linked polyethylene, and ceramic on ceramic. Eighty seven patients with 97 hip replacements were available for review five years later (*Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery Br* 2012;94B:459-65, doi:10.1302/0301-620X.94B4.27735). A comparison between the standard and highly cross linked polyethylene showed an almost threefold difference in the mean annual linear wear rates (0.151 mm/year versus 0.059 mm/year). There were no significant differences in pain and stiffness.

A US programme to encourage hospitals to “Get with the Guidelines-Heart Failure” implemented in January 2005 has increased the use of implantable cardioverter defibrillators for patients with heart failure and poor ventricular function across all sex and race groups. In a study of 11 880 patients, overall use of implantable defibrillators increased from 30.2% to 42.4% (*Circulation* 2012;125:1094-1101, doi:10.1161/circulationaha.111.066605). The increase was greatest among black people, with the previous racial disparities in use (low uptake among black people) no longer present at the end of the five year study. However, low use among women persisted.

The morbidity among doctors and their resistance to dealing with their own health needs are discussed in *The Psychiatrist* (2012;36:81-4, doi:10.1192/pb.bp.111.037903). When depressed, doctors become pessimistic and often view the role of the regulator (the General Medical Council) and their employer with distrust. Beliefs about invincibility and perceived weakness, and the scourge of “presenteeism,” all make doctors a difficult bunch of professionals to help. A bespoke service—not triage—is probably the best model of care for doctors.

Patients who fail to attend appointments do so for various reasons, but the main excuse is that they simply forget. Fining people who don’t attend is fraught with practical and ethical difficulties. Applying social influences, such as encouraging active participation when booking appointments, is a better way forward. Getting patients to actively commit by asking them to repeat back the details of their appointment before ending the conversation or asking them to write appointment details down



One in 10 Europeans have mutations in the filaggrin gene that result in a dysfunctional skin barrier. Mutations lead to ichthyosis vulgaris and strongly increase the risk of atopic disorders. We have made the clinical observation that deep skin fissures on the heels, lips, earlobes, hands, and fingers are strongly associated with filaggrin mutations, independent of dermatitis and ichthyosis vulgaris status. Moisturisers with high lipid content should be recommended during

times of low humidity—for example, during the winter—in those affected to maintain skin hydration.

Jacob P Thyssen, resident in dermatology, **Torkil Menné**, professor, **Claus Zachariae**, consultant, department of dermato-allergology, National Allergy Research Centre, Copenhagen University Hospital Gentofte, Niels Andersens Vej 65, DK-2900 Hellerup, Denmark

Patient consent obtained

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themselves can reduce the “did not attend” rate by one third (*Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 2012;105:101-4, doi:10.1258/jrsm.2011.110250).

Nearly 1400 neurosurgical patients were allocated to internal jugular vein cannulation with their head in either the neutral position or turned by 45°. A neutral head position was found to be as safe as a 45° neck rotation }during ultrasound guided cannulation with respect to both major and minor complications, and venous access time was similar in both groups (*Anesthesia and Analgesia* 2012;114:777-84, doi:10.1213/ANE.0b013e3182459917). Perceptions of difficulties in performing the procedures were similar in both groups.

A cross sectional study of state public health departments in the US reports that 60% of them use at least one social media application. Of these, 87% had a Twitter account, 56% a Facebook account, and 43% a YouTube channel. On average, departments made one post a day on social media sites, primarily to distribute information. There was very little interaction with audiences, and few of them had followers or friends on these sites. Strategies that foster interactivity and engagement are needed if social media are going to be used more effectively (*BMC Public Health* 2012;12:242, doi:10.1186/1471-2458-12-242).

Smoking may amplify the effects of a schizophrenia risk gene variant (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2012, doi:10.1073/pnas.1118051109). German researchers found that carriers of four distinct TCF4 schizophrenia risk variants displayed altered processing of auditory information, and, when the results were adjusted for smoking, they found that heavy and light smokers displayed greater deficits in information processing than never smokers. The researchers say they don’t know if smoking modulates the risk for schizophrenia itself, but accounting for smoking behaviour may help to discover genetic risk factors for the disease.

Joint decision making between patients and healthcare professionals has become enshrined in NHS strategy and policy, but it relies on patients being given good enough information. An article in the *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* reminds us that researchers don’t always ask the right questions (2012;50, doi:10.1136/dtb.2012.03.0088). When people with rheumatoid arthritis were asked what mattered most to them, researchers expected to hear that pain was the biggest concern. In fact fatigue emerged as a greater concern. Outcome measures that matter to patients should be agreed before any research begins.

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