



Hip pain in an adolescent after injury while playing football
Try the picture quiz in
ENDGAMES, p 50

Quails' eggs are being used to train juniors in endoscopic endonasal surgery. Slow boiled eggs are embedded in the orbit or attached to the lateral wall of the maxillary sinus in a physical sinus model created from synthetic materials. The stiffness of the eggshell membrane acts as the periorbit. Surgical procedure testing determined that eggshell resection involving inaccurate drilling or peeling with curettes can rupture the eggshell membrane, which in turn leads to protrusion of egg white—mimicking extrusion of orbital fat from periorbital injury (*Laryngoscope* 2012;122:2154-7, doi:10.1002/lary.23399).

Most of the older population in the United Kingdom cannot cross a pedestrian crossing in the time required (*Age and Ageing* 2012;41:690-4, doi:10.1093/ageing/afs076). The walking speed of 3145 adults older than 65 years was assessed by a timed walk of eight feet at their normal pace. Researchers found that 84% of men and 93% of women walked slower than 1.2 m/s, the speed required for safe crossing. This assumed "normal walking" speed for pedestrian crossings could be unrealistic for older people.

Smokeless tobacco products including hookah (water pipe) and nass chewing seem to be as risky as cigarette smoking when it comes to squamous cell cancer of the oesophagus. Indian researchers did a case-control study of 702 confirmed cases and 1663 hospital based controls matched for age, sex, and residential district reports. They found that ever-hookah smoking and nass chewing were associated with the risk of oesophageal cancer; the associations being consistent across different intensities of use, duration, cumulative use, and after excluding smokers of other products and cigarettes (*British Journal of Cancer* 2012;107:1618-23, doi:10.1038/bjc.2012.449).

Boiling and then storing household water in a covered container is effective in reducing *Escherichia coli* in drinking water in Cambodia. In a longitudinal study of 60 randomly selected homes over six months in one province, 90% of households used boiling to treat water. But only an average of 31% of these homes had boiled water to hand at follow-up. Of 369 matched samples of boiled and untreated water, 44% of



A 31 year old woman who was 11 weeks pregnant presented with sudden loss of vision in her left eye, which occurred after a typical migraine headache with a visual aura. However, the visual aura persisted and remained as a central scotoma. Visual acuity was 6/6 on the left and 6/60 on the right. Medical investigation, which included an echocardiogram, revealed a patent foramen ovale. A patent foramen ovale is a recognised cause of a right to left shunt, which is a risk factor for an ischaemic event secondary to a paradoxical embolus.

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Patient consent obtained.

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boiled samples were free of *E coli*, compared with 5% of untreated samples (*American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 2012;87:394-8, doi:10.4269/ajtmh.2012.11-0715).

Applying hyoscine at the caecum to cut colon spasm could help detect polyps. In a randomised, double blind, placebo controlled trial of 601 patients, the detection of any polyp was significantly higher in the hyoscine group than in the placebo group, with no differences in baseline characteristics between the groups. No adverse colonoscopy related events were reported. One patient had a transient tachycardia without sequelae (*Endoscopy* 2012;44:917-22, doi:10.1055/s-0032-1310009).

Minerva wonders whether the complexity of assisted reproductive technology explains the increased risk of adverse obstetric and perinatal outcomes, or whether it is the women's infertility itself. A large Japanese cohort study points the finger at infertility. Nearly 250 000

women with singleton pregnancies were divided according to the type of procedure used. Regardless of the procedure, there was an increased incidence of placenta praevia, preterm delivery, and infants with low birth weight, and a decreased incidence of spontaneous cephalic delivery (*Fertility and Sterility* 2012;98:922-8, doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2012.05.049).

β blockers could offer a survival benefit to patients with significant sepsis. An Italian team analysed data from patients admitted to critical care units with sepsis, looking specifically at the differences between those who had previously been prescribed β blocker therapy and those who had not. Of almost 9500 patients older than 40 years, 11.2% had previously been prescribed β blockers; this group enjoyed a lower mortality rate at 28 days than those previously unexposed to β blockers (17.7% v 22.1%, odds ratio 0.78 (95% confidence interval 0.66 to 0.93); *Critical Care Medicine* 2012;40:2768-72, doi:10.1097/CCM.0b013e31825b9509).

The demand for transplantable organs exceeds supply. A surgical intensive care unit in the United States introduced new quality measures to improve the organ retrieval process. The process had three sequential steps: targeted donor identification, conversion of potential donors to actual donors, and organ protection during procurement. Organ protection led to an increased number of organs transplanted per donor and improved recovery of hearts and lungs despite increasing donor age. The three quality measures were introduced successfully elsewhere in the same organ procurement region (*Injury* 2012;43:1805-10, doi:10.1016/j.injury.2012.08.012).

How often is work to blame for headaches? Norwegian researchers collected data over two years from 6421 employees at baseline and 3574 at follow-up. Seven of 16 separate psychological, social, and mechanical factors were prospectively related to headache severity. The most significant factors linked to severity of pain were higher quantitative demands and role conflict, and lower decision control, control over work intensity, and job satisfaction (*Pain* 2012;153:2119-32, doi:10.1016/j.pain.2012.07.009).

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