

Online highlights from thebmj.com

THIS WEEK IN 1915

A paper on anger, read to the Medico-Psychological Association by Dr David Orr, contained some detail on the “amok” of the Malays. When the tendency to “run amok”—which is not confined to Malays—affected individuals of influence and authority, there was likely to be an “epidemic of maniacal fury, in which even nations passed into furious homicidal passion and became a grave danger to civilisation.” It was thought that Germany was currently running amok, but that humanity was not likely to permit a repetition.

• Cite this as *BMJ* 1915;1:934



RESPONSE OF THE WEEK

I understand from the news today that our leaders are arguing against seven day GP appointments on the basis of a shortage of GPs. Aren't we missing the point here?

I believe we should be arguing against seven day appointments on the basis of common sense.

I do believe strongly that we must provide good access to GP appointments during working hours, five days a week, bookable online as well as face to face and by phone, and that we should have excellent out of hours care for our patients at all other times. But routine appointments seven days a week? Certainly not. That is wasteful in terms of our valuable resources, and not the best answer to provide better GP access.

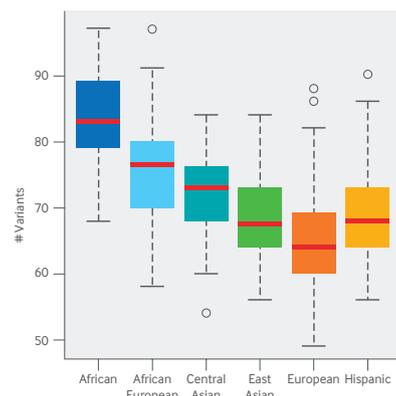
What other professions, or indeed health care professionals, have seven day appointments, what other countries have such a system, and what is the evidence of any benefit in such a system?

Robert Horton, retired GP, Burton on Trent, UK, in response to, “Ministers must halt ‘surreal obsession’ with seven day opening, GP leader says”

• *BMJ* 2015;350:h2801

STATE OF THE ART

This week our State of the Art review is diagnosis and treatment of cancer using genomics. The field of cancer diagnostics has exploded over recent years with the discovery of new genes associated with cancer, and techniques for identifying disease causing events.



With the introduction of large scale whole genome sequencing, the availability of large scale cancer specific datasets and detailed ancestral information generated from sequencing of the general population, the number of biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and risk assessment is set to rise. This should improve our understanding of the cancer genome over the next few years.

This review summarises current genomic diagnostic methods and relevant government regulations in the US and UK. It explores the current use of genomics for risk assessment, diagnosis, determination of prognosis, and defining potential therapeutic interventions. In addition, the role that ancestry plays in the use of genomics for risk assessment and cancer diagnostics in the individual patient is discussed.

• *BMJ* 2015;350:h1832

LATEST BLOGS

Fewer tablets, more self management support

Should doctors routinely prescribe self management courses for patients with long term conditions? Yes, says Tessa Richards, and they should do so soon after diagnosis, not 20 years later.

<http://bmj.co/selfmanagement>

Will a seven day NHS push primary care recruitment from crisis to catastrophe?

David Cameron has promised a seven day NHS. But how will he fund it, and where will the extra staff required to run weekend services



come from? Medical student Daniel Barrett says that attracting more medical students into general practice will be crucial. However, he warns that taking away weekends will mean that general practice is no longer an attractive career path.

• http://bmj.co/seven_day_NHS

Do bring me problems

David Oliver observes the rise of the positive thinking cult in UK healthcare. He worries that an NHS that pushes for relentless optimism and positivity from its staff will drown out real concerns over resource, staffing, performance pressures, and morale.

• <http://bmj.co/healthzombie>

Should employers have access to employees' medical records?

In professions where performance can affect public safety, can we make a case that employers should be allowed to see staff medical records? Medicolegal adviser Pallavi Bradshaw unpicks the implications of this proposal.

• <http://bmj.co/medrecordstaff>



POPULAR ONLINE

GMC's supposedly independent training review included secret meetings with politicians

• *BMJ* 2015;350:h2400

The Darwin Awards: sex differences in idiotic behaviour

• *BMJ* 2014;349:g7094

Serotonin and depression

• *BMJ* 2015;350:h1771

THIS WEEK

Articles in this print journal have already been published on thebmj.com and may have been shortened. Full versions with references and competing interests are on thebmj.com



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M S Gohel and Ian Chetter

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Teppo Järvinen and colleagues

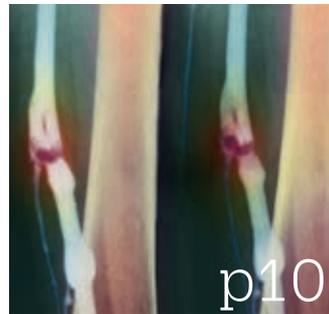
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Time to stop writing reports and start taking action
Nicola Walker and Richard Baker
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Fresh evidence confirms higher risks
Susan S Jick
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Andrew R Lloyd and Jos W M van der Meer



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Michael Ussher et al



EDUCATION

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Tanujan Thangarajah and Simon Lambert
● thebmj.com
1 CPD/CME hour

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False-coloured scanning electron micrograph of a cross-section through cancellous bone
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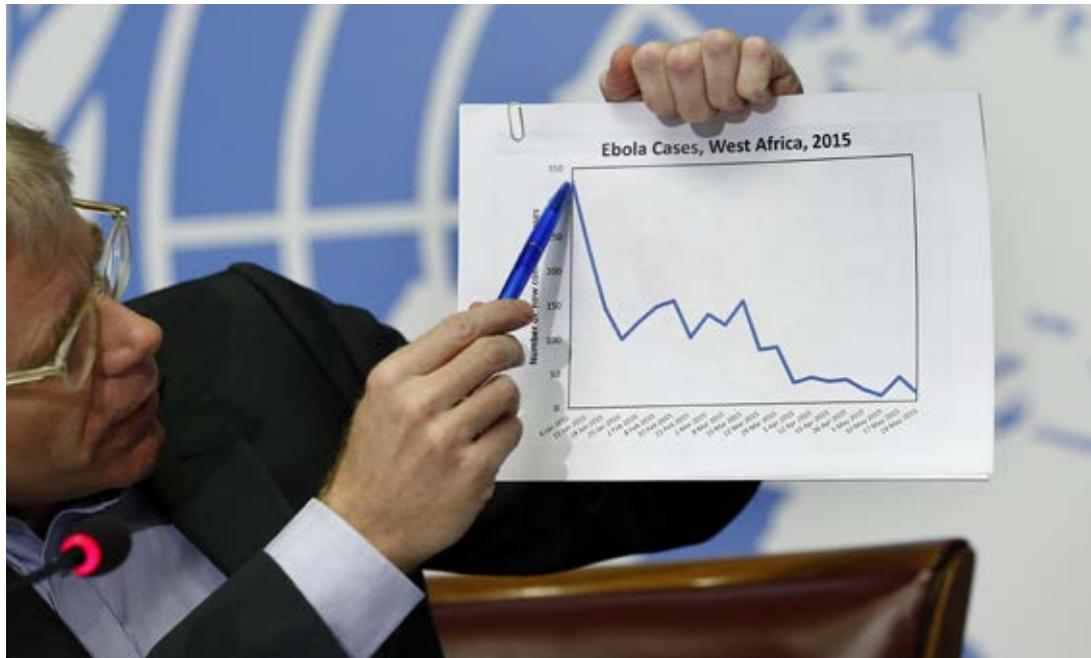
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DENIS BALIBOUSE/REUTERS

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Bruce Aylward, assistant director-general for emergencies at the World Health Organization, shows a graph during a news conference on Ebola during the World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, this week

THEBMJ.COM POLL

Last week's poll asked:

**Should the reversal of our
dependence on antibiotics be
made a priority?****YES 88% NO 12%****Total votes cast: 113**● *BMJ* 2015;350:h2682

This week's poll:

**Should the UK adopt
an opt out system of
organ donation?**See *The BMJ* blogs**VOTE NOW ON
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

24/7 technology—who needs it?

As our technology gets ever more sophisticated is it always of benefit to patients?

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At the Conservative party spring conference David Cameron pledged that, if they formed a new government, the party “would substantially extend weekend working of NHS services.” Post-election, the question is how will it be possible to resource a fully functioning 24/7 NHS when we are struggling to afford the current system? Provision of care seven days a week will increase the demand on already stretched primary and secondary care services, and therefore we need to ask who exactly will be expected to provide it.

In a research paper in this week's journal, Fiona Warren and colleagues analysed results of the GP Patient Survey related to out of hours care (p 9). They found that commercial providers were associated with poorer scores for overall patient experience of out of hours GP care than not for profit providers. Poorer overall experience was reported specifically by Asian service users and those unable to take time away from work.

A linked editorial by Nicola Walker and Richard Baker (p 6) describes the ongoing confusion that patients may experience when trying to navigate the various routes to accessing care out of hours. They argue that now more than ever the growing numbers of older people and those with multimorbidities need greater integration and continuity of care “in hours,” with presentations to general practice becoming more challenging. With the further £22bn of efficiency savings that are targeted for 2021 and services already stretched, achieving this need will be a challenge.

An education article this week on investigating intracerebral haemorrhage (p 32) highlights that because there are many potential causes, “further imaging beyond plain CT is warranted.” The authors outline appropriate imaging techniques to aid prognosis and treatment. But as our technology gets ever more sophisticated is it always of benefit to patients? Teppo Järvinen and colleagues, in an Analysis article in our Too Much Medicine series (p 18), argue that current fracture risk predictors have at least doubled the number of candidates for drug treatment for osteoporosis. The authors report that “sales of bone densitometry devices and bone building drugs have exploded.” The harms are described for those patients with a diagnosis who the authors say have a “psychological burden” imposed on them. Not forgetting the burden of associated adverse events.

And finally, still on the topic of technology, let's celebrate one definite success story. *The BMJ's* website is 20 years old this week (p 5), with the site now receiving 1.3 million user sessions a month compared with *The BMJ's* weekly print run of 120 000. Our online content now includes blogs, videos, podcasts, and infographics tailored to the web, which are delivered through continuous online publication. As we strive for 24/7 online services, editor in chief Fiona Godlee (*BMJ* 2014;349:g6970) hopes that we can continue to “challenge, inform, annoy, and entertain you wherever you are in the world.”

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