



Investigators from Japan selected 83 highly cited studies claiming effective psychiatric treatments from 2000 to the end of 2002. They then searched for subsequent studies with a better controlled design or a similar design but a larger sample (*British Journal of Psychiatry* 2015, doi:10.1192/bjp.bp.113.143701). Among these 83 articles, 40 had not been subject to any attempt at replication, 16 were contradicted, 11 were found to have substantially smaller effects, and only 16 were replicated. No wonder that there is so much literature questioning the effectiveness and safety of common psychiatric treatments.

The Red Journal is not a bulletin for academic Marxists but the semi-official name of the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology*. Remarkably, 12 pages of the August issue (2015;92:951-2; doi:10.1016/j.ijrobp.2015.05.048) are taken up by letters related to the long term results of the TARGIT-A trial, which were reported in the *Lancet* in February 2014. These were interpreted as showing that a single dose of intraoperative radiation was as effective for a large number of women undergoing breast cancer surgery as the fractionated external radiotherapy that is standard practice. It seems that many radiation oncologists disagree, although the authors strongly defend their conclusions.

Traditional risk factor scores for cardiovascular risk include age, sex, body mass index, hypertension, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, and smoking. But with the exception of smoking, these did not emerge as the top predictors of secondary cardiovascular events in a study that compared them with biomarkers in two cohorts with stable coronary disease (*Journal of the American Heart Association* 2015;4:e001646, doi:10.1161/JAHA.114.001646). The top four predictors of secondary events within five years were N-terminal pro-type brain natriuretic peptide, high sensitivity cardiac troponin T, urinary albumin:creatinine ratio, and current smoking.

“Into the dangerous world I leapt, Helpless, naked, piping loud,” wrote William Blake in *Infant Sorrow*. The dangerous world contains many antibiotic resistant bacteria and each person develops an individual “resistome” of bowel germs early in life. Using metagenomic DNA from faecal samples collected from three healthy twin pairs and their mothers, researchers



A 72 year old woman presented with left hip pain. Computed tomography showed bony metastasis of the femoral neck. There was no obvious primary source. A total hip replacement was carried out and histology from the femoral neck showed highly pleomorphic tumour cells consistent with metastatic malignant melanoma. A malignant melanoma (Clark’s level 3, Breslow thickness 1.9 mm) had been excised from her posterior right thigh two years earlier. Lung, prostate, thyroid, kidney, and breast cancer are the most common sources of bony metastases, with rarer causes including bowel and bladder cancer and malignant melanoma.

Faye Alexandra Barnett (fayebarnett@doctors.org.uk), clinical research fellow, Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Chapel Allerton Orthopaedic Centre, Leeds LS7 4SA, UK, **Juliet H Stone**, fifth year medical student, University of Birmingham Medical School, Birmingham, UK, **Martin H Stone**, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit, Chapel Allerton Orthopaedic Centre, Leeds LS7 4SA, UK
 Consent obtained from next of kin.

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found that healthy 1-2 month old infants’ gut microbes harbour clinically relevant resistance genes distinct from those of their mothers, and that family specific shared environmental factors early in life shape resistome development (*Microbiome* 2015;3:27, doi:10.1186/s40168-015-0090-9).

Surgical embolectomy is usually considered a risky last ditch treatment for massive and sub-massive pulmonary embolism (PE). But a case series of 105 patients in an American centre shows good outcomes in most patients between 1999 and 2013 (*Annals of Thoracic Surgery* 2015, doi:10.1016/j.athoracsur.2015.03.111). Six month, one year, and three year survival

rates, respectively, were 75%, 68.4%, and 65.8% for unstable PE and 92.6%, 86.7%, and 80.4% for stable PE.

A large centre providing paediatric emergency care for most children in Atlanta (GA) audited all of the 4.1% of patients who returned within 72 hours of being seen in its emergency department. Management was rated as acceptable in 92.6% and suboptimal in 7.4%; it was concluded that return visits that resulted in admission may not reflect the quality of care (*American Journal of Medical Quality* 2015, doi:10.1177/1062860615594879).

Kungsholmen, an island that forms part of the city of Stockholm, sounds like a pleasant spot to grow old. It is home to 1656 adults aged 66-97 years without dementia who are participating in the Swedish National Aging and Care study. They were assessed for levels of perceived stress using the 10 item perceived stress scale, which showed a small increase in stress levels as people grew older (*Age and Ageing* 2015, doi:10.1093/ageing/afv078). This could be wholly accounted for by rising levels of health anxiety.

The *American Journal of Men’s Health* (2015, doi:10.1177/1557988315596224) examines the association between fatherhood and body mass index. In the years when they father babies, American men tend to put on more weight—an effect of satisfaction or stress? Minerva is not well placed to judge.

The word groin often crops up in sports medicine. It is a difficult place to define, and it can be even more difficult to know the cause of the pain. Three fashionable candidates in active young people are femoroacetabular impingement, occult hernias, and adductor tendinopathy. Austrian investigators looked at ultrasound scans from 74 patients of mean age 29 who were thought to have radiographic femoroacetabular impingement—41% were judged to have concurrent inguinal and/or femoral hernias and 23% had evidence of tendinopathy of the proximal adductor insertion (*American Journal of Sports Medicine* 2015, doi:10.1177/0363546515591259). It would be interesting to do a similar study of 74 young Austrians without groin symptoms.

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