What is already known on this topic

Premedication with steroids, antihistamines, and other drugs, alone or in combination, is widely used before injection of iodinated contrast media.

Premedication is thought to reduce the risk of life threatening anaphylactic reactions.

What this study adds

Life threatening anaphylactic reactions due to iodinated contrast media are rare.

In unselected patients, the usefulness of premedication is doubtful as a large number of patients need to receive premedication to prevent one potentially serious reaction.

Data supporting the use of premedication in patients with a history of allergic reactions are lacking.

We thank M Daniel Hake, Medical Library, Medical Faculty, Geneva University, for his help in searching electronic databases.

Contributors: See bmj.com.

Funding: MRT was a beneficiary of a PROSPER (Program for Social Medicine, Preventive and Epidemiological Research) grant from the Swiss National Research Foundation (No 3233-051939.97/2 and No 3200-061800.01/1).

Competing interests: None declared.


doi 10.1136/bmj.3890.631192.AE

Corrections and clarifications

On a mission: how Cuba uses its doctors abroad

In this News article by Sara Carrillo de Albornoz we slipped up with the name of the editor of the Cubani public health journal Revista Cubana de Salud Publica (BMJ 2006;333:464, 2 Sep). We gave his name as Luis Carlos Da Silva, whereas it is in fact Luís Carlos Silva.

Waits for diagnostic tests threaten 18 week treatment target

We mixed up our royal colleges in this News article by Caroline White (BMJ 2006;333:463, 2 Sep). Dr Gill Markham is a vice president of the Royal College of Radiologists [not Pathologists] and also dean of its Faculty of Clinical Radiology.

Filler: bmjupdates+

The results given in bmjupdates+ about black cohosh (BMJ 2006;333, 19 Aug, doi:10.1136/bmj.333.7564.e) were wrong owing to an author error in the original paper (J Clin Oncol 2006;24:2836-41).

The correct mean reduction in hot flash scores was 15% (95% confidence interval 2% to 29%) for black cohosh and 31% (18% to 44%) for placebo.

Editor’s choice: Whither medicine?

In this piece by Fiona Godlee we said that Roy Porter died “before the beginning of the new millennium” (BMJ 2006;333, 9 Sep, doi: 10.1136/bmj.333.7567.0-f). We were wrong; he died in 2002.

BMJ: first published as 10.1136/bmj.333.7570.678 on 28 September 2006. Downloaded from http://www.bmj.com/ on 22 July 2022 by guest. Protected by copyright.