abstract of The Lancet


"Neglect [in childhood] is at least as damaging as physical or sexual abuse in the long term but has received the least scientific and public attention."

"Well-developed community mental-health services are associated with lower suicide rates that are services oriented towards in-patient treatment provision."
WORLD REPORT

Text messages could hasten tuberculosis drug compliance.
Barclay, E.

The Philippines’ health worker exodus.
Cheng, M.H.

Russia releases draft health-care plan.
Parfitt, T.

Alcohol use on the rise in India.
Prasad, R.

ARTICLES

Outpatient management of patients with low-risk upper-gastrointestinal haemorrhage: multicentre validation and prospective evaluation.
AJ Stanley, D Ashley, HR Dalton, C Mowat, DR Gaya, E Thompson, U Warshow, M Groome, A Cahill, G Benson, O Blatchford, W Murray.

Universal voluntary HIV testing with immediate antiretroviral therapy as a strategy for elimination of HIV transmission: a mathematical model.
Granich, R.M., Charles F Gilks, Christopher Dye, Kevin M De Cock, Brian G Williams.

Second-generation versus first-generation antipsychotic drugs for schizophrenia: a meta-analysis.
Leucht, S., Caroline Corves, Dieter Arbter, Rolf R Engel, Chunbo Li, and John M Davis.

Insecticide-treated net coverage in Africa: mapping progress in 2000–07.

Community mental-health services and suicide rate in Finland: a nationwide small-area analysis.
Sami Pirkola, Reijo Sund, Eila Sailas, Kristian Wahlbeck.

Adjuvant external beam radiotherapy in the treatment of endometrial cancer (MRC ASTEC and NCIC CTG EN.5 randomised trials): pooled trial results, systematic review, and meta-analysis.
The ASTEC/EN.5 writing committee on behalf of the ASTEC/EN.5 Study Group.

Efficacy of systematic pelvic lymphadenectomy in endometrial cancer (MRC ASTEC trial): a randomised study.
The writing committee on behalf of the ASTEC study group.

SERIES

Burden and consequences of child maltreatment in high-income countries.

Recognising and responding to child maltreatment.

SEMINAR

Obstructive sleep apnoea and its cardiovascular consequences.
Bradley, T.D., and John S Floras.

CASE REPORT

Unexplained seizures in an infant.
Astuto, M., Carmelo Minardi, Giuliana Rizzo, and Antonino Gullo.

The insulin ball.
Terumasa Nagase, Yoshiya Katsura, Yoshiki Iwaki, Kenji Nemoto, Hidenori Sekine, Kazuhiro Miwa, Tsunao Oh-i, Keni Kou, Keiichi Iwaya, Masayuki Noritake, and Takeshi Matsuoka.

CLINICAL PICTURE

Visualising rhabdomyolysis.
Walsh, S., and Stanley L Fan.

Mechanisms of thrombogenesis in atrial fibrillation: Virchow’s triad revisited.
Watson, T., Eduard Shantsila, and Gregory YH Lip.

VIEWPOINT

AIDS case reporting: do we still need it?
Kaldor, J.M., Valerie Delpech, Rebecca J Guy.
WORLD REPORT

Mobile phone technologies are being harnessed to help patients with tuberculosis keep up with their treatment regimens, with some promising preliminary results. Eliza Barclay reports. A handful of new technologies designed to connect tuberculosis patients with their caregivers using text messaging, or SMS (short message service), hold potential for helping to improve adherence to gruelling drug regimens.

With the demand for health workers continuing in developed countries, the Philippines has seen its exodus of health workers turn into a major export industry. Margaret Harris Cheng reports. This month a test of the developed world’s sincerity towards solving the global health-worker crisis comes before the WHO’s Executive Board (Jan 19–27).

Last month, the Russian Government drafted a health-care blueprint for the next 12 years to reduce the country’s punishing mortality rate and increase longevity. Tom Parfitt reports. After almost two decades of stops and starts, Russia has published a blueprint for health-care reform until 2020, setting ambitious targets to cut the country’s high mortality rate and increase the population’s woefully low life expectancy.

With more than half of all alcohol drinkers in India falling into the criteria for hazardous drinking, alcohol abuse is emerging as a major public-health problem in the country. Raekha Prasad reports.

ARTICLES

The GBS identifies many patients presenting to general hospitals with upper-gastrointestinal haemorrhage who can be managed safely as outpatients. This score reduces admissions for this condition, allowing more appropriate use of in-patient resources.

Universal voluntary HIV testing and immediate ART, combined with present prevention approaches, could have a major effect on severe generalised HIV/AIDS epidemics. This approach merits further mathematical modelling, research, and broad consultation.

Second-generation antipsychotic drugs differ in many properties and are not a homogeneous class. This meta-analysis provides data for individualised treatment based on efficacy, side-effects, and cost.

By mapping the distribution of populations in relation to malaria risk and intervention coverage, we provide a means to track the future requirements for scaling up essential disease-prevention strategies. The present coverage of ITN in Africa remains inadequate and a focused effort to improve distribution in selected areas would have a substantial effect on the continent’s malaria burden.

Well-developed community mental-health services are associated with lower suicide rates than are services oriented towards inpatient treatment provision. These data are consistent with the idea that population mental health can be improved by use of multifaceted, community-based, specialised mental-health services.

Adjuvant external beam radiotherapy cannot be recommended as part of routine treatment for women with intermediate-risk or high-risk early-stage
endometrial cancer with the aim of improving survival. The absolute benefit of external beam radiotherapy in preventing isolated local recurrence is small and is not without toxicity.


Our results show no evidence of benefit in terms of overall or recurrence-free survival for pelvic lymphadenectomy in women with early endometrial cancer. Pelvic lymphadenectomy cannot be recommended as routine procedure for therapeutic purposes outside of clinical trials.

**SERIES**


Child maltreatment remains a major public-health and social-welfare problem in high-income countries. Every year, about 4–16% of children are physically abused and one in ten is neglected or psychologically abused. During childhood, between 5% and 10% of girls and up to 5% of boys are exposed to penetrative sexual abuse, and up to three times this number are exposed to any type of sexual abuse. However, official rates for substantiated child maltreatment indicate less than a tenth of this burden.


Professionals in child health, primary care, mental health, schools, social services, and law-enforcement services all contribute to the recognition of and response to child maltreatment. In all sectors, children suspected of being maltreated are under-reported to child-protection agencies. Lack of awareness of the signs of child maltreatment and processes for reporting to child-protection agencies, and a perception that reporting might do more harm than good, are among the reasons for not reporting.

**SEMINAR**


Obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) is a common disorder in which repetitive apnoeas expose the cardiovascular system to cycles of hypoxia, exaggerated negative intrathoracic pressure, and arousals. These noxious stimuli can, in turn, depress myocardial contractility, activate the sympathetic nervous system, raise blood pressure, heart rate, and myocardial wall stress, depress parasympathetic activity, provoke oxidative stress and systemic inflammation, activate platelets, and impair vascular endothelial function.

**CASE REPORT**


In June, 2004, a girl was delivered by caesarean section, at 38 weeks, after the placenta became detached. When she was 2 months old, the girl was brought to hospital with generalised tonic-clonic seizures, tremors in arms and legs, hypotonia, and inconsolable crying. Blood tests, EEG, and MRI of the head and spine showed nothing abnormal. The girl’s mother, a housewife (the father was a farmer) was prescribed amitriptyline for postnatal depression and tension headache; we knew of no other family history of neurological illness.


In August, 2005, a 62-year-old Japanese man, with a 20-year history of type 1 diabetes, was admitted to our hospital, for investigation of apparent insulin resistance. Since January, 2004, he had been taking insulin in a longacting (glargine) and a shortacting (lispro) form, at a total of 66 units a day. Despite the dose being gradually increased to 94 units a day, his blood glucose concentrations had subsequently been high, and poorly controlled.

**CLINICAL PICTURE**


A haemodialysis patient with hypercholesterolaemia was admitted with an ulcer on his left foot. Shortly after admission he complained of generalised aching and difficulty in mobilising. Osteomyelitis complicating his foot ulcer was suspected and a Tc99-labelled diphosphonate bone scan was done. The scan showed uptake into damaged muscle—consistent with rhabdomyolysis (figure). His serum creatinine kinase was checked and was high, and his atorvastatin (which he had been prescribed, but had not been taking at home), the suspected cause of his rhabdomyolysis, was discontinued.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia, which is associated with a high risk of stroke and thromboembolism. Increasing evidence suggests that the thrombogenic tendency in atrial fibrillation is related to several underlying pathophysiological mechanisms. Abnormal changes in flow are evident by stasis in the left atrium, and seen as spontaneous echocontrast. Abnormal changes in vessel walls—essentially, anatomical and structural defects—include progressive atrial dilatation, endocardial denudation, and oedematous or fibroelastic infiltration of the extracellular matrix.

**VIEWPOINT**


The world cares about HIV because it causes AIDS, a disease which is fatal in the absence of treatment. The leading international HIV journal is AIDS, and the mega-event that brings people together every 2 years to review and boost the worldwide response to the HIV pandemic is known as the International AIDS Conference. It may therefore seem appropriate that, more than 25 years into the pandemic, public-health agencies in almost every country continue to document, analyse, and publish the occurrence of AIDS.