



Journal of the British Association for
Emergency Medicine

Editors

Geoff Hughes (Australia)
Kevin Mackway-Jones (UK)

Deputy Editors

Steve Goodacre (Acute Medicine) (UK)
Colville Laird (Prehospital Care) (UK)
Ian Maconochie (Paediatric Emergency
Medicine) (UK)
Jonathan Wyatt (Web editor) (UK)

Associate Editors

Simon Carley (Evidence-based Medicine)
(UK)
Darren Walter (Prehospital Care) (UK)
Malcolm Woollard (Prehospital Care) (UK)

Editorial Office

BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, BMA House,
Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK
T: +44 (0)20 7383 6318
F: +44 (0)20 7383 6668
E: emjeditorial@bmjgroup.com

ISSN: 1472-0205 (print)
ISSN: 1472-0213 (online)

Impact Factor: 0.869

Disclaimer: Emergency Medicine Journal is owned and published by the British Association for Emergency Medicine and BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association. The owners grant editorial freedom to the Editor of Emergency Medicine Journal.

Emergency Medicine Journal follows guidelines on editorial independence produced by the World Association of Medical Editors and the code on good publication practice of the Committee on Publication Ethics.

Emergency Medicine Journal is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied. Statements in the journal are the responsibility of their authors and advertisers and not authors' institutions, the BMJ Publishing Group Ltd or the BMA unless otherwise specified or determined by law. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the BMJ Publishing Group Ltd shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage resulting from the use of Emergency Medicine Journal or any information in it whether based on contract, tort or otherwise. Readers are advised to verify any information they choose to rely on.

Copyright: © 2008 BMJ Publishing Group Ltd and the British Association for Emergency Medicine. All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of Emergency Medicine Journal.

Emergency Medicine Journal is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, typeset by The Charlesworth Group and printed in the UK on acid-free paper by Cambrian Printers Ltd, Aberystwyth

Periodicals postage paid, Rahway, New Jersey, USA. Postmaster: send address changes to: Emergency Medicine Journal, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA

Editorial

- 1 Defining what we do
G Hughes

Commentary

- 2 The Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) and the emergency department
J Butler

Review

- 4 Consultations in the emergency department: a systematic review of the literature
R S Lee, R Woods, M Bullard, B R Holroyd, B H Rowe

Original articles

- 11 Determination of the size of the different sepsis categories presenting to a UK teaching hospital emergency department
M Majuran, M Clancy
- 15 Intravenous amiodarone for the pharmacological termination of haemodynamically-tolerated sustained ventricular tachycardia: is bolus dose amiodarone an appropriate first-line treatment?
D R Tomlinson, P Cherian, T R Betts, Y Bashir
- 19 Abnormal response of the extremities to pain stimulation immediately after the return of spontaneous circulation from cardiopulmonary arrest
Y Yanagawa, T Sakamoto, Y Okada
- 23 A novel method to assist nasogastric tube insertion
C-W Hung, W-H Lee

- 26 Impact of oral dexamethasone versus placebo after ED treatment of migraine with phenothiazines on the rate of recurrent headache: a randomised controlled trial
A-M Kelly, D Kerr, M Clooney

Short report

- 30 2,4-D (Ethyl ester) poisoning: experience at a tertiary care centre in Northern India
A Bhalla, V Suri, N Sharma, S Mahi, S Singh

Soft tissue injuries series

- 33 Soft tissue injuries: introduction and basic principles
J Sloan

Best Evidence Topic reports

- 38 Topical or oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatories in soft tissue injury
M Callaghan, G Ford
- 39 Dexamethasone in meningitis
S Gidwani, E Worthington
- 40 Stethoscope contamination with MRSA
C Young, J S Jones

Prehospital care

- 42 Retention of mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-mask and mouth-to-face shield ventilation
P Paal, M Falk, E Gruber, W Beikircher, G Sumann, F Demetz, J Ellerton, V Wenzel, H Brugger

Emergency casebooks

- 46 Pre-excited atrial fibrillation triggered by intravenous adenosine: a commonly used drug with potentially life-threatening adverse effects
A J Turley, S Murray, J Thambyrajah
- 49 Central venous thrombosis misdiagnosed as eclampsia in an emergency department
H Savage, M Harrison
- 51 Leptospirosis pulmonary haemorrhage: a diagnostic challenge
M Dall'Antonia, G Sluga, S Whitfield, A Teall, P Wilson, D Krahe
- 53 Spontaneous intercostal artery bleeding
J M Moon, S C Lee, B J Chun
- 55 Botulism: a rare complication of injecting drug use
T N Wenham
- 57 An unusual cause of abdominal distension
D Rimal, S I H Tou, S R Thapa, N Munasingha, V Chitre

PostScript

- 59 Letters

Miscellanea

- 10 Emergency Medicine Questions (EMQ)
- 58 EMQ answers
- 62 Sophia

Images in emergency medicine

These can be found on pages 18, 29, 32, 48, 50, 54, 61.



This article has been chosen by the Editor to be of special interest or importance and is freely available online.



Articles carrying the Unlocked Logo are freely available online under the BMJ Journals unlocked scheme. See <http://emj.bmj.com/info/unlocked.dtl>



www.publicationethics.org.uk

This journal is a member of and subscribes to the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics