

Emergency Medicine Journal

including pre-hospital care

Journal of the British Association for

Accident and Emergency Medicine

Official Journal of the British Association for Immediate Care
and the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care of the
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh



Editors

Peter Driscoll
Jim Wardrope

Associate editors

Colville Laird (Prehospital Care)
Roderick Mackenzie (Deputy Associate Editor, Prehospital Care)
Kevin Mackway-Jones (BETS editor)
Jonathan Wyatt (Web editor)

Editorial assistant

Claire Jura

Technical editor

Jackie Foulds

Editorial board

Ian Anderson (UK)
Thomas Beattie (UK)
Mike Beckett (UK)
Kenneth Broffard (South Africa)
Anthony Brown (Australia)
Mike Clancy (UK)
Rob Cocks (UK)
Christine Dearden (UK)
Roger Evans (UK)
Henry Guly (UK)
Jacqueline Hanson (UK)
Richard Hardern (UK)
Jerris Hedges (USA)
John Henry (UK)
John Heyworth (UK)
Geoffrey Hughes (New Zealand)
Diana Hulbert (UK)
Robin Illingworth (UK)
Michael Lambert (UK)
Roderick Little (UK)
Mike McCabe (UK)
Campbell MacFarlane (South Africa)
Alastair McGowan (UK)
Andrew Marsden (UK)
Francis Morris (UK)
Patrick Nee (UK)
Jerry Nolan (UK)
Laurence Roche (UK)
Roger Saadia (Canada)
David Skinner (UK)
Robin Touquet (UK)
David Yates (UK)
Registrar representative: David Pedley (UK)
Editor, *BMJ*

Instructions to authors

Full instructions are available online at <http://emj.bmjournals.com/misc/ifa.html>

Subscription information

See inside front cover

Copyright

© 2003 *Emergency Medicine Journal*. 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*.

Authors are required to grant *Emergency Medicine Journal* an exclusive licence to publish; further details available online at <http://emj.bmjournals.com/misc/ifa.html>.

- *Emergency Medicine Journal* is published by BMJ Publishing Group and printed in UK on acid free paper by Cambrian Printers, Aberystwyth.
- Periodicals postage paid, Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to: *Emergency Medicine Journal*, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA.
- ISSN: 1472-0205 (print version)
- ISSN: 1472-0213 (electronic version)



www.publicationethics.org.uk

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

contents EMJ

Volume 20 Number 2 March 2003

Editorials

- 112 Reforming emergency care; for patients
D Lammy
- 112 Skillmix: an advance or an excuse?
K G M M Alberti
- 113 Reforming the UK emergency care system
M W Cooke
- 114 The advances and evidence base for prehospital care
C MacFarlane
- 116 Turbulent times
J Wardrope, P Driscoll
- 117 The NICE head injury guidelines
D W Yates

Controversies in emergency care

- 118 See and Treat: a management driven method of achieving targets or a tool for better patient care? One size does not fit all
A M Leaman
- 119 Don't throw triage out with the bathwater
J Windle, K Mackway-Jones
- 120 One size does not fit all. View 2
K Castille, M Cooke

Review

- 123 Clinical decision units in the emergency department: old concepts, new paradigms, and refined gate keeping
T B Hassan

Original articles

- 126 Designing the accident and emergency system: lessons from manufacturing
P Walley
- 131 Discharge from triage: modelling the potential in different types of emergency department
M W Cooke, P Arora, S Mason
- 134 Social care's impact on emergency medicine: a model to test
P Bywaters, E McLeod
- 138 Use of emergency observation and assessment wards: a systematic literature review
M W Cooke, J Higgins, P Kidd
- 143 Analysis of patient flow in the emergency department and the effect of an extensive reorganisation
Ó Miró, M Sánchez, G Espinosa, B Coll-Vinent, E Bragulat, J Millá
- 149 Can good bed management solve the overcrowding in accident and emergency departments?
N C Proudlove, K Gordon, R Boaden
- 156 Meeting National Service Framework goals for patients presenting with acute myocardial infarction
E Gilby, G Lloyd, L Chan, S Tosh, S Brierley
- 158 Emergency nurse practitioners: a three part study in clinical and cost effectiveness
M Sakr, R Kendall, J Angus, A Saunders, J Nicholl, J Wardrope

Research series

- 164 Designing a research project: randomised controlled trials and their principles
J M Kendall

Best evidence topic reports

- 169 Towards evidence based emergency medicine: best BETs from the Manchester Royal Infirmary *Edited by K Mackway-Jones*
- 169 Seldinger technique chest drains and complication rate *J Argall, J Desmond*
- 170 Antacids and diagnosis in patients with atypical chest pain *S Teece, I Crawford*
- 171 Need for cervical spine imaging for alert children after trauma *A Kontos, S Omorphos, J Desmond*
- 171 Cervical spine imaging in children under 9 after trauma *S Omorphos, A Kontos, J Desmond*
- 172 Conservative management of asymptomatic cocaine body packers *D Das, B Ali*
- 174 Acute myocardial infarction in cocaine induced chest pain presenting as an emergency *S Carley, B Ali*

JournalScan

- 176 JournalScan *Edited by J Wyatt; this scan coordinated by W Alsalam*

Prehospital care

- 178 Computer assisted assessment and advice for "non-serious" 999 ambulance service callers: the potential impact on ambulance despatch *J Dale, J Higgins, S Williams, T Foster, H Snooks, R Crouch, C Hartley-Sharpe, E Glucksman, R Hooper, S George*

- 184 Use of out of hours services: a comparison between two organisations
C J T van Uden, R A G Winkens, G J Wesseling, H F J M Crebolder, C P van Schayck
- 188 Evaluation of emergency medical services systems: a classification to assist in determination of indicators
C MacFarlane, C A Benn
- 192 The Surrey Emergency Care System: a countywide initiative for change
J Navein, I McNeil
- 196 Developing a community paramedic practitioner intermediate care support scheme for older people with minor conditions *S Mason, J Wardrope, J Perrin*
- 199 Would a prehospital practitioner model improve patient care in rural Australia?
P O'Meara

Short report

- 204 Effect of weather on attendance with injury at a paediatric emergency department *D M Macgregor*

Case report

- 206 Lesson learnt: don't prescribe heparin for hemoperitoneum! *D Debnath*

Letter

- 208 National Service Framework fails to address the decision time *G Lloyd, J Bengier, P Kaye, S Haig, E Gilby*

Book review

- 208 Anaesthesia at the district hospital, 2nd edn *T Shaw*

Correction