Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, date, and country</th>
<th>Patient group</th>
<th>Study type (level of evidence)</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Key results</th>
<th>Study weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown et al, 1973, Australia</td>
<td>4 children 18 months–3 years</td>
<td>Case reports</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>Normalised</td>
<td>Blood pressure Normalised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown et al, 1976, Australia</td>
<td>12 children 15 months–12 years with arrhythmias</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>9/12 reverted to sinus rhythm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoffman et al, 1992, Germany</td>
<td>184 cases of overdose</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>4/8 reverted to sinus rhythm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoffman et al, 1993, USA</td>
<td>91 patients with overdose</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>39/49 improved</td>
<td>Sodium bicarbonate to a pH of 7.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical bottom line
On current best evidence alkalinisation to a pH of 7.55 appears to be appropriate treatment for patients with dysrhythmias after tricyclic overdose.

Collar and cuff or sling after fracture of the clavicle
Report by Simon Carley, Clinical Fellow
Search checked by Kevin Mackaway-Jones, Consultant

Clinical scenario
A 23 year old male presents to the emergency department after a fall on the outstretched hand. Radiography reveals a mid-clavicular fracture. You know that a figure of eight bandage is of no benefit but are unsure whether a sling or a collar and cuff gives the best outcome.

Three part question
In [young patients with simple clavicle fractures] is [collar and cuff better than broad arm sling] at [reducing pain and reducing time to recovery]?

Search strategy
Medline 1966 to 12/98 using the OVID interface. ([exp immobilization OR exp bandages OR collar and cuff.mp OR broad arm sling$] AND [exp clavicle OR clavicular.mp OR exp fractures OR fracture$]) LIMIT to human AND English language.

Search outcome
Twenty papers were found none of which were relevant.

Comment
There is no literature on the use of collar and cuff or sling in simple clavicular fracture.

Clinical bottom line
There is no evidence to determine whether a collar and cuff is better than a sling for management of simple clavicular fractures. Local advice should be followed and the comfort of the patient must be taken into account.

Curettage or silver nitrate for pyogenic granulomas on the hand
Report by Wendy Dollery, Specialist Registrar
Search checked by Vince Choudrey, Clinical Fellow

Clinical scenario
A 23 year old woman attends the emergency department with a strange growth on the end of her finger. She cut herself on glass some six weeks previously. Examination reveals a lesion with the appearance of a pyogenic granuloma. You wonder whether you should remove the lump surgically or chemically.

Three part question
In [an adult with a pyogenic granuloma on the hand] is [curettage better than cauterity with silver nitrate] at [removing the lesion and preventing recurrence]?

Search strategy
Medline 1966 to 12/98 using the OVID interface. ([exp granuloma OR granulomas$ OR granuloma, pyogenic OR granuloma, pyogenic.mp OR exp hemangioma, capillary OR capillary hemangiomas$] AND [exp hand OR exp thumb OR exp fingers OR hand$ AND thumb.mp OR finger$ AND digit$])