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CASE REPORT

A case of right sided weakness

A 77 year old right handed man presented with a history of resolving right sided weakness. His right arm and leg were affected, and his arm felt "heavier" than his leg. His wife noticed that his face drooped on the right side and that he used the "wrong words" when speaking. Within an hour of admission his weakness completely resolved, and a transient ischaemic attack was diagnosed.

Forty eight hours after presentation, the patient re-presented to the accident and emergency department. On this occasion, he had a dense right sided hemiparesis, his right arm was worse than his right leg, and he had "forehead sparing" facial weakness. He was dysphasic, with his gaze preference to the left. His pulse was regular at 90 beats a minute and his blood pressure was 140/90 mm Hg. He had no clinical signs of meningism. His symptoms had been present for 30 minutes and had not improved.

- 1 What relevance does the initial presentation of transient ischaemic attack have on the risk of subsequent events?
- 2 On re-presentation, which accident and emergency clinical decision tool should be used?
- 3 What should be the immediate management plan?
- 4 Where should he be managed?
- 5 What should you do if swallowing is impaired?

Submitted by Asif Atik Mazumder, George Anthony Pope
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PICTURE QUIZ

Non-healing ulcer on the toe

A 59 year old Somalian woman went to her podiatrist for treatment of a lesion on her right great toe, which followed an injury eight months before. At that time radiography showed soft tissue swelling only. She was referred to an orthopaedic surgeon and admitted for intravenous antibiotics and wound debridement. However, the lesion continued to be painful and to bleed spontaneously. Despite regular dressings the wound failed to heal and she was referred to a dermatologist.

On examination she had a pigmented ulcerated lesion on the distal right great toe, measuring 3x2 cm, which had replaced the nail and had extended over both lateral and distal borders. The lesion was more macular at the periphery and an area of depigmentation was seen. General examination revealed lymphadenopathy in the right groin.

A biopsy was taken to confirm the diagnosis. Positron emission tomography showed deposits in the right groin.

- 1 What is the diagnosis?
- 2 How should it be managed?
- 3 What are the risk factors for this diagnosis?
- 4 What is the prognosis?

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PRIZE QUIZ: Allergy

Each week we offer a prize of a *BMJ* memory stick to the person who answers correctly, in the quickest time, a set of examination questions taken from OnExamination. To enter the quiz, go to www.onexamination.com/endgames. The competition closes at midnight on Wednesday, and the winner will be announced in the print *BMJ*.

Here's one question from this week's quiz on allergy from a range of examinations.

A 38 year old woman is admitted with cellulitis surrounding a traumatic wound. She has never taken penicillin previously. She is placed on intravenous flucloxacillin and benzylpenicillin. Shortly after the second dose she becomes acutely short of breath and collapses. She is resuscitated successfully after administration of intravenous adrenaline.

What type of reaction has this woman experienced? (Select one option)

- Type I hypersensitivity
- Type II hypersensitivity
- Type III hypersensitivity
- Type IV hypersensitivity
- Type V hypersensitivity

Answers to this question can be viewed at
www.onexamination.com/Endgames/LastEndgame.aspx.

The winner of the prize quiz on risk factors was Emily Heather

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Who dunnit?

Match the name to the topic for which they are known.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| James Lind | a) Used Coxcomb plots to display hospital mortality statistics and leading causes of death |
| Florence Nightingale | b) A time series analysis to show the effectiveness of hand washing in reducing maternity hospital mortality |
| Ignac Semmelweis | c) An observational study of two different topical applications for treating gunshot wounds |
| Ambroise Pare | d) A controlled clinical trial of several acidic foodstuffs to assess treatments for scurvy |

Submitted by John Fletcher
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