



A 62 year old man with a history of dizziness and unsteadiness
Try the picture quiz in
ENDGAMES, p 1253

Spanking 3 year old children leads to an increased risk of their behaving aggressively. Having controlled for their initial level of aggression and for a whole host of other potential confounders—such as maternal physical and psychological abuse, neglect, intimate partner aggression, stress, depression, and substance abuse—it is now clear that even a minor form of corporal punishment such as spanking is responsible for producing more aggression in children (*Pediatrics* 2010;125:e1057-65, doi:10.1542/peds.2009-2678).

An American multistate study involving 412 participants investigated the personalities of practising trauma surgeons in relation to job satisfaction. Satisfied surgeons were found to be more extraverted and emotionally stable, and more satisfied with their job. Attributes that were less correlated included agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness. The study concluded that less than half of trauma surgeons were satisfied with their current position, and that age, number of years practising, teaching hospital status, and hospital accreditation made no difference to job satisfaction (*The American Surgeon* 2010;76:422-7).

The richer you are, the more safely your child sleeps, concluded a study in the *Southern Medical Journal*. The study found that awareness regarding correct sleep position, as suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics, was almost 25% lower in respondents with an income of less than \$20 000 (£13 700; €16 300) compared with respondents who had an income above \$80 000. Care givers of 205 infants at four paediatric practices in Southwest Tennessee were surveyed; lower income respondents reported hospital staff as their primary source of information, whereas higher income participants used printed materials (*The Southern Medical Journal* 2010;103:311-5).

Samples of air taken from around the bedside of patients diagnosed with *Clostridium difficile* grew the organism. Researchers found that six of 50 air filtrates collected at the bedside at a British hospital yielded *C difficile*. The yield increased with longer sampling times. After 10 hours, air samples of seven out of 10 symptomatic patients were positive. Positive samples correlated with activities such as bed making, food delivery, and the arrival of visitors. The isolates were no different from stool and surface isolates (*Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2010;50:1450).

A 54 year old woman with known metastases from transitional cell carcinoma of the renal pelvis presented with patchy red rashes on her upper arms, face, and lower limbs. A biopsy of a skin lesion confirmed Sweet's syndrome. This syndrome is characterised by fever, leucocytosis, and sudden onset of many bright to dusky red, sharply marginated, tender plaques commonly located on the back of the



upper extremities, neck, and face. Of all patients with Sweet's syndrome, 10% have an underlying malignant process, often a myeloproliferative disease and, less commonly, solid tumours. Cutaneous and extracutaneous manifestations usually respond to systemic or topical corticosteroids.

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Patient consent obtained.

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Of 366 insurance claims related to regional anaesthesia and analgesia, 51% were related to obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia and 40% were related to neuraxial block. The majority of the claims (77%) were closed at the time of analysis, with a total cost of £12 724 017 (€15m; \$18.5m) and a median of £4772. However, it was noted that non-obstetric claims were more likely to have life threatening outcomes than obstetric ones, and the maximum values for claims were higher for those related to neuraxial blocks and eye blocks, than for those for peripheral nerve blocks (*Anaesthesia* 2010;65:443-52, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2044.2010.06248.x).

Developing relationships with a diverse group of people could be the answer to the international economic mess we're in, according to *Science* (2010;328:1029-31, doi:10.1126/science.1186605). Data from a national communication network (landline and mobile) were combined with data from a national census on the socioeconomic wellbeing of communities, making possible a population-level investigation of the relationship between the structure of social networks and socioeconomic opportunity. The most striking aspect of the study was that diversity of individuals' relationships is strongly correlated with the economic development of communities, suggesting that economic recovery might depend on social infrastructure as much as financial stimulus.

An internet study questioned whether television journalists exposed to violent news clips develop post-traumatic stress symptoms or increased work stress. Television and radio newsroom workers from nine different broadcast channels in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland were tested, totalling 81 in the television group, and 65 in the control (radio) group. Although a moderate amount of general work stress was reported, television workers were not more susceptible to developing mental health problems, post-traumatic stress, or general work stress than the control group (*The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease* 2010;198:264-71, doi:10.1097/NMD.0b013e3181d612bf).

A method that persuades dormant reproductive cells into an active state might prove a useful technique to help older women, or those who have had their ovaries frozen before cancer treatment, to bear children (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 2010, doi:10.1073/pnas.1001198107). When clusters of cells surrounding an unfertilised egg were induced out of dormancy in mice and then transplanted into mice, they developed into mature egg-producing follicles, eventually producing 20 healthy, fertile pups. Similar experiments on human cells matured in a similar way. However, the human eggs were not allowed to be fertilised because of ethical concerns.

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