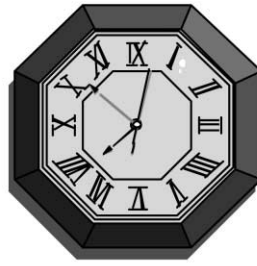


## This issue's topics



### Ultrasonography -time to review the evidence?

#### **Ultrasonography as an adjunct to mammography—lack of evidence-based support**

In a systematic review of publications in MEDLINE and EMBASE between 1990 and 2000, Flobbe and colleagues have reviewed the evidence for the use of ultrasonography (US) as an adjunct to mammography in the detection of breast cancer and to identify clinical indications. Studies were selected if they provided estimates on sensitivity and specificity for both mammography and US, either reported or calculable. Papers were written in English, French, German, Italian or Dutch with pathology data, where possible, preferably from histological needle biopsy or surgery, or follow-up of 1 year or more of patients with negative imaging results. Their review suggested that there was little evidence-based support for the use of US and no clinical indications could be defined. The authors state that the heterogeneity in the diagnostic performance observed in the studies they reviewed may be explained by the methods of patient selection and the interpretation of the US data as well as their poor quality.

#### **Treatment of childhood brain tumours—successes, difficulties and frustrations**

Treatment advances for childhood brain tumours, including medulloblastoma, have lagged behind those for other paediatric cancers despite the efforts of collaborative groups such as the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), the German/Austrian Group (GPOG) the Childhood Cancer Study Group (CCSG), Paediatric Oncology Group (POG) and Childrens' Oncology Group (COG) in North America. For most tumour types, irradiation is still considered to be by far the most active 'single agent' but it damages the developing brain to an unacceptable degree, especially in young children. In this issue, Dr Eric Bouffet-Head of the Neurooncology Unit at the hospital for Sick Children in Toronto summarises the current successes and frustrations of working with this 'difficult' group of patients and provides some pointers for the future. A sister article, in which Dr Richard Gilbertson of St. Jude Hospital, Memphis, USA discusses current advances in the basic science of paediatric brain tumours, appeared in issue 38.05.

#### **Does the methodology adapted to evaluate research productivity affect the results?**

In this issue, Ugolini and colleagues have compared two different methods to evaluate research productivity. They compared data on a number of factors including the number of published papers for each country, the ratio between the number of occurrences of papers and the population of the country and gross domestic product and the mean Impact Factors (IFs). Although several of these parameters showed no important changes, the mean IF varied between the two different methods for some countries. The authors urge that care in the interpretation of such bibliometric results should therefore be exercised and ask if one method is sufficient.

## Forthcoming papers

#### **Obituary**

Obituary—Tom Connors  
H. Newell

#### **Editorial Comments**

Editorial comment on "Serum markers in breast cancer management"  
K.L. Cheung

#### **Reviews**

Current treatment of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma  
M. Reiser, V. Diehl  
Treatment of outcome studies: pitfalls in current methods and practice  
C. Legrand, R. Sylvester, L. Duchateau, *et al.*

#### **Original Papers**

##### **Clinical**

Prognostic role of serum CA15.3 in 362 node-negative breast cancers. An old player for a new game  
M. Gion, P. Boracchi, R. Dittadi, *et al.*  
CA 15-3 in the follow-up of localised breast cancer: a prospective study  
R. Kokko, K. Holli, M. Hakama  
Frequent 3p allele loss and epigenetic inactivation of the *RASSF1A* tumour suppressor gene from region 3p21.3 in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma  
R.P. Hogg, S. Honorio, A. Martinez, *et al.*  
Hormone receptor status in primary breast cancer—time for a consensus?  
G.C. Wishart, M. Gaston, A.A. Poultsidis, *et al.*

Raltitrexed in the treatment of elderly patients with advanced colorectal cancer: an active and low toxicity regimen

J. Feliu, J.R. Mel, P. Escudero, *et al.*

ErbB-4 expression in limb soft-tissue sarcoma: correlation with the results of neoadjuvant chemotherapy

O. Merimsky, J. Issakov, J. Bickels, *et al.*

Gemcitabine-radiotherapy in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer

S. M. de Lange, C. J. van Groeningen, O. W. M. Meijer, *et al.*

Phase I study of a weekly schedule of a fixed dose of cisplatin and escalating doses of paclitaxel in patients with advanced oesophageal cancer

M.B. Poole, J. Verweij, P.D. Siersema, *et al.*

#### **Paediatric**

Childhood cancer patients at school

P.M. Lahteenmaki, J. Huostila, S. Hinkka, *et al.*

#### **Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention**

Second primary cancers in laryngeal cancer patients in Slovenia, 1961–1996

P. Ecimovic, V. Pompe-Kirn

#### **Experimental**

Regulation of B16F1 melanoma cell metastasis by inducible functions of the hepatic microvascular

H.H. Wang, A.R. McIntosh, B.B. Hasinoff, *et al.*

Enhancement of the antitumour activity of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) by inhibiting dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) activity using 5-chloro-2, 4-dihydroxypyridine (CDHP) in human tumour cells

T. Takechi, A. Fujioka, E. Matsushima, M. Fukushima

Therapy of rat tracheal carcinoma IC-12 in SCID mice: vascular targeting with <sup>213</sup>Bi-MAb TES-23

S.J. Kennel, T. Lankford, S. Davern, *et al.*

#### **Letters**

Trends in breast-conserving surgery in the Southeast Netherlands

P.C. Gotzsche

Reply

A.C. Voogd, M.F. Ernst, J.W.W. Coebergh, *et al.*