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LETTERS

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**THE BEGINNING OF
THE END OF EBM?**

Recently the following appeared
in the proceedings of a national
scientific meeting:

*Every so often scientific medicine needs
a fix*

*And EBM is the current iron fist
That reductionists use in a power play
So that clinical experience has less sway.*

*EBM enjoys a widespread cult status
With RCTs and meta-analyses its
overpowering flatus.
Its ethos demands that statistics advise,
Whereas clinical opinion is a despicable
vice!*

*There is no denying that EBM is a good
move
To embed medicine solidly in scientific
proof.
Increasingly, however, clinicians are less
keen,
For cook-book medicine is not their
scene.*

*And the applicability of RCTs to the
complex patient
Sorely tests a practitioner's patience.
Nor are they happy that those litigation
lions
May be plundering their assets with EB
guidelines.*

*But EBM is waning on the scientific
stage
As genomic medicine becomes the next
new rage.
Yes, EBM is moving into a recession
As society becomes besotted with a new
obsession
That effectively dismisses the EBM sage,
For alternative medicine is now centre
stage.*

(Martin Van Der Weyden, 2003)

Is this caustic cynicism or perceptive
prophecy?

Only time will tell.

Martin B Van Der Weyden

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**Parallel infusion of hydrocortisone ± chlorpheniramine
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(*Med J Aust* 2003; 178: 427-432) 418

"Bone and joint disorders: prevention and control"

(*Med J Aust* 2004; 180 (5 Suppl): S1-S40) 418

**"Parallel infusion of hydrocortisone ± chlorpheniramine
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